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A gun-shy Bob Hoskins

Time Out

Messiah when?

The Weekend Magazine

Joyce Brenner: In the eye of the storm

News in Focus, Page 7

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Indian classical dancers perform in New Delhi yesterday during celebrations marking India's 50th anniversary of independence from Britain.

Albright to visit in September

Ramallah, Hebron internal closure lifted

By JON IMMANUEL and news agencies

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's spokesman announced yesterday that she is making plans for a September trip to the region that will focus on speeding up Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

The IDF meanwhile lifted the internal closure on Ramallah and Hebron, leaving only Bethlehem sealed off.

"The secretary of state is going to the Middle East soon. I can assure you of that. The 'when' is linked to the kind of trip she wants to have and the kind of results that we see in the area of security that we are going to be watching in the coming weeks," spokesman James Rubin told reporters.

The trip would be Albright's first to the region as secretary of state. Assessing a report from US peace envoy Dennis Ross to Albright after four days in the region, Rubin renewed an appeal to Israel to resume payments to the Palestinian Authority of taxes withheld from Palestinian workers.

But he did not insist that Israel lift the closure and readmit tens of thousands of Palestinian workers nor that it lift travel bans.

"We're going to be very careful about what we declare to be security-related closure and non-security-related steps that we regard as counterproductive," Rubin said.

"The peace process will never get back on track unless [PA Chairman Yasser] Arafat makes a decision and implements that decision to have sustained cooperation in the area of security," Rubin said. "And frankly, we've told him that his failure to do so only harms himself and harms the people in those areas."

While she would be focusing on Palestinian-Israeli relations, Albright would probably make other stops in the region as well, Rubin said. "We have broader inter-

ests in the region, we have national security interests that go beyond Israel and the Palestinian Authority," he said.

Albright said in an August 6 speech she was prepared to go to the Middle East at the end of August provided progress was made in improving the security situation after the bombing in Jerusalem's Mahaneh Yehuda on July 30.

"It's possible the trip will not be in August but will be in September," Rubin said.

He said that Albright would be watching "results over the coming weeks and make a decision on that basis."

The IDF dropped the internal closure on Ramallah and Hebron yesterday, leaving only Bethlehem closed, while it opened a checkpoint in Gaza for the export of goods.

The choice to keep Bethlehem closed is partly due to the discovery of a bomb factory in nearby Beit Sahur a few weeks ago, as well as the town's proximity to Jerusalem.

The decisions were made in a meeting of the territories' forum headed by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

Speaking last night at a graduation ceremony of the National Defense College, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu slammed the PA for not cracking down on terror.

He said the PA is not fighting terror, which is a condition for the continuation of the peace process. Netanyahu said terrorists in PA-controlled territory are gaining in strength. Palestinian towns serve as places of refuge for terrorists after attacks in Israel, he said.

India's jubilee dampened by past failures

By ARTHUR MAX

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Recalling its ambition "to wipe every tear from every eye," India commemorated 50 years of independence yesterday with festivity tempered by awareness its founder's agenda is unfinished.

Police said rebels marked the anniversary with violence, killing seven people in a train bombing in northeastern India. The attack was a reminder the blood-soaked partition of Pakistan from India failed to quash the eth-

nic tensions straining this diverse, populous democracy. Neighboring Pakistan, which gained independence a day before

Twins' birthday is India's celebration, Page 6

India in 1947, also saw violence mar celebrations yesterday.

Police fired on crowds in the southern port city of Karachi as a jubilant wreath-laying ceremony surged out of control, leaving two

people dead. Late yesterday, flag-waving crowds gathered to watch men who fought Britain for India's independence ride jeeps in a parade to New Delhi's imposing India Gate war memorial. They were joined by government officials, politicians, school children, musicians and others from across the country who swelled the event to as many as 15,000 participants.

Bands blared patriotic tunes and buildings along the parade route in central New Delhi were draped with flower garlands and strings of

festive lights. Dancers and musicians performed on roadside stages. Additional celebrations are planned for today.

See INDIA, Page 6

Moonies sponsor 'Jewish Identity' meeting in Ariel next week

By MARILYN HENRY and JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

The Reverend Sun Myung Moon's missionary organization, the Inter-Religious Federation for World Peace, is sponsoring a four-day conference at the College of Judea and Samaria in Ariel scheduled to begin on Monday.

Organizers of the conference, entitled "Contemporary Reflections on Jewish Identity," said they did not check the sponsor's background before making the reservation.

"Several months ago we received a phone call from an independent businessman named Dror in the US, and he told us that there was a group that wanted to hold a conference in Ariel," said Boaz, the college's events organizer, who only gave his first name. "We handled the logistics. We got them rooms and made arrangements with the hotel. We never checked what they were about."

"Usually there's no need to check because the people who come to

Ariel are pro-Israel," he said. The planned conference drew fire from anti-missionary activists in New York who alleged that the forum would give legitimacy to Reverend Moon.

Any association with Moon is "giving bullets to our enemies," said Philip Abramowitz, director of the Task Force on Missionaries and Cults at the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York. "They are not friends of the Jewish community."

Some 25 Jewish scholars from Israel, the US and Europe were scheduled to present papers, according to an invitation to the conference that one invitee gave to *The Jerusalem Post*. Participants will engage in a "substantive discussion of the pressing issues related to the historical meanings, and current manifestations and transformations of Jewish identity," it said.

Abramowitz suggested that Jewish participants were duped, ignorant of the sponsor or simply exploiting a junket to Israel.

Early versions of Moon's exegesis on the Bible, a tract called "Divine Principle," are replete with classic anti-Jewish themes, including blaming the deaths of Jews on their failure to believe in Jesus.

The most public anti-missionary activity in the American Jewish community has been challenging the youth who saturate subway stations with neon leaflets for "Jews for Jesus." More pernicious and frustrating, the activists say, are the innuendoes made by missionaries who adroitly manipulate Jewish symbols, rituals and themes. Missionaries also appeal to immigrant and other vulnerable Jewish groups with offers ranging from welfare services to entertainment.

The conference is a "tactic that is part and parcel of an effort to gain legitimacy and be part of the mainstream religious community," Abramowitz said, fuming that Israel was being used as a base "to gain a heap of credibility."

In 1993, the Moonies tried to hold a conference at Jerusalem's Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Hotel, reserving space under the name of the Women's Federation for World Peace. After the hotel's management learned who was behind the event, it asked the group to find another venue.

The Moonies were identified as one of the most dangerous cults by a public committee chaired by former deputy education minister Miriam Ta'asa-Glasser in the 1980s.

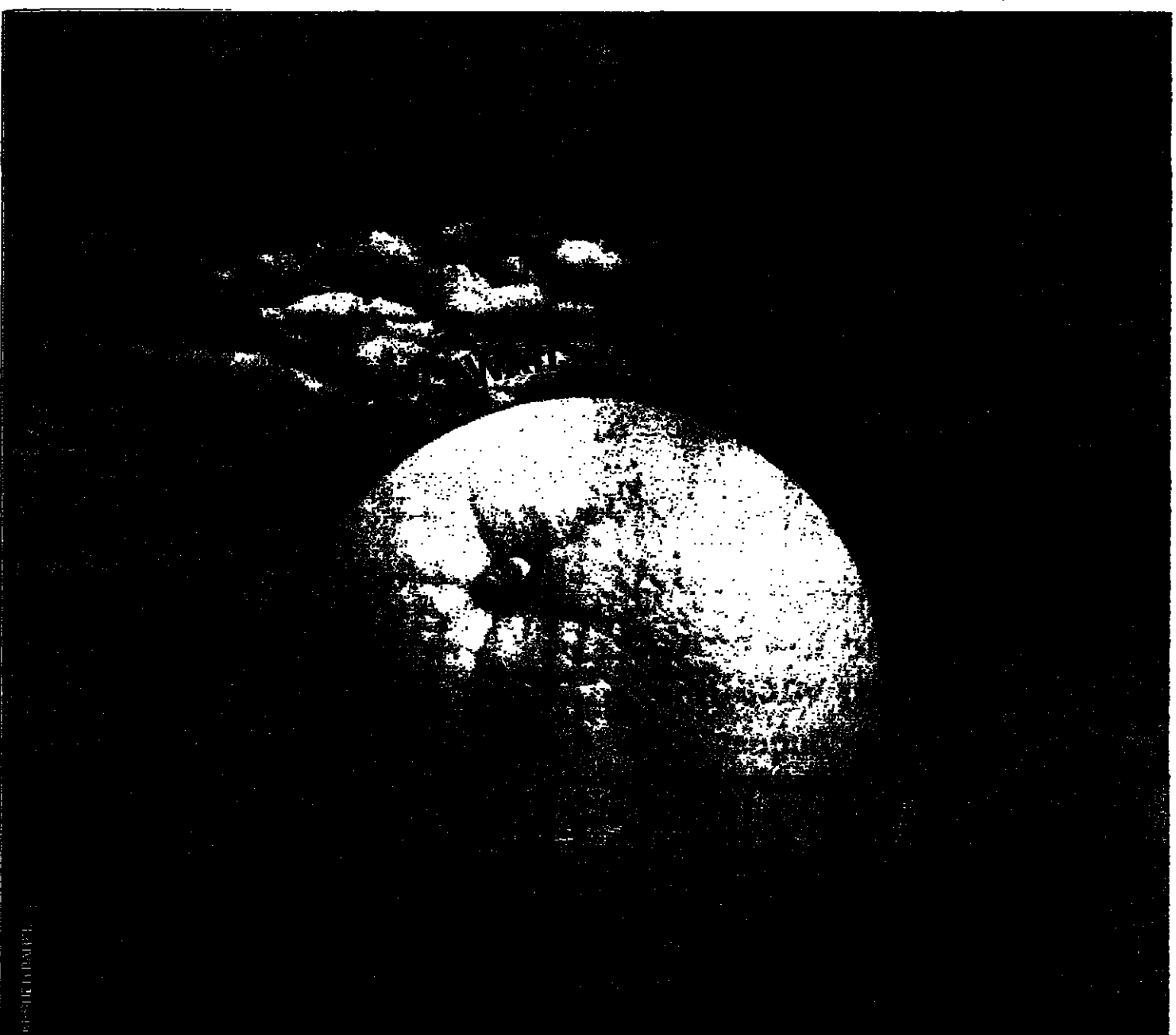
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NEWS

in brief

Palestinian youth dies of wounds in Hebron

A 14-year-old Palestinian shot by IDF soldiers in a clash in Hebron last month died of his wounds yesterday, the boy's family said.

Youssef Ibrahim Jabari was shot in the head by a rubber bullet during a riot. He was the fifth person from Hebron to die in four months of sporadic clashes.

Meanwhile, hundreds of masked activists of the PLO's main Fatah group, some clutching knives and axes, marched in Hebron yesterday, pledging to fight against Israel if necessary.

"This is a military march to show the Israeli side there are many youths ready to fight if Israel crosses the red line over the national rights of the Palestinian nation," said one protester.

Reuters

Mordechai initiating settler radio station

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Communications Minister Limor Livnat are establishing a regional radio station to serve the Jewish population of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Mordechai's office announced yesterday.

While radio franchises inside Israel are licensed by the Second Channel Radio and Television Authority, the defense minister is in charge of radio stations in the West Bank and Gaza, the statement said. Mordechai has had Eli Cohen, his aide for settlement issues, research the issue for several weeks.

Jerusalem Post Staff

IDF demolishes extensions on Palestinian homes

The government yesterday partly demolished five Palestinian homes in the West Bank it said were built illegally, witnesses and the army said.

Witnesses said bulldozers under army guard levelled five annexes to homes in a compound owned by one extended family in the village of Nebi Samwil near Jerusalem.

"God might not get you now but you're going to have your day later," one Palestinian woman screamed at troops.

Peter Lerner, spokesman for the civil administration, said the army demolished extensions to homes in Nebi Samwil and a house in Bir Naballah, near Ramallah, because they were built without permits.

Reuters

PA officer suspected of shooting at soldiers

Israel apprehended a Palestinian policeman suspected of shooting at IDF soldiers patrolling near Gush Katif, in the Khan Younis area of the Gaza Strip yesterday. But a Palestinian official denied the policeman fired his gun and said he was pursuing a suspected Palestinian smuggler, who fired at the Palestinian officers during the chase. There were no reported injuries.

Israel filed a complaint with Palestinian officials at a joint coordinating office in Gaza.

Reuters

2 border policemen jailed for assault

Each receive eight-month sentence for beating and degrading Palestinians

The Jerusalem Magistrates Court yesterday sentenced two border policemen filmed assaulting Palestinians to eight months in jail each.

Tzahi Shmaya, 19, and David Ben-Abu, 20, were also given a 12-month suspended sentence.

Reading their sentence, Judge Rafi Strauss said their actions "disgraced the Border Police" and added that he hoped the jail sentence would discourage such behavior in the future.

Shmaya and Ben-Abu were filmed by an amateur cameraman last November attacking six Palestinians stopped at the A-Ram roadblock in northern Jerusalem without entry permits.

The videotape showed the two policemen kicking some of the Palestinians in the head, kneeling one in the stomach, forcing others to do push-ups and riding one man like a donkey. It was broadcast around the world.

The men were charged with aggravated assault and abuse of authority.

Witnesses said relatives of the convicted policemen erupted from their seats in rage after hearing the sentence. One woman was evicted for calling the judge a "leftist."

"This is not what they deserve. They went out to serve the country. Now the Palestinians are laughing," said Ben-Abu's father, Shalom.

"I think it will be difficult for a Jewish mother to send her son to the army in light of a verdict like this because the punishment is quite severe," defence lawyer Sasi Gez told reporters. Gez said he would appeal the verdict.



Border policeman David Ben-Abu (left) is held back by a plainclothes policeman yesterday in Jerusalem Magistrate's Court, where he and fellow border policeman Tzahi Shmaya were sentenced to eight months in jail for assaulting Palestinians last November.

The verdict was issued a day after the B'tselem human rights organization released a 31-page report detailing what it said were 15 cases of "beatings, degradation

and serious abuse" of Palestinians by security forces over the last three months.

B'tselem activist Yuval Ginbar said officers and not just police-

men must be held accountable for police brutality.

"There is something much more rotten here than one or two apples," Ginbar said. "Beating and

ill-treatment of Palestinians, especially at roadblocks and especially by the Border Police, is a very widespread and very serious phenomenon."

Border Police Commander Yisrael Sadan said, however, that the force was now more vigilant about preventing abuses, and the number of reported cases declined dramatically in recent months.

(News agencies)

3 border policemen confess to abuse

Three border policemen were arrested by their commander yesterday after they confessed to abusing two Palestinian workers near the Beit Shemesh forest Tuesday.

The arrest followed a Channel 1 report Wednesday showing one of the Palestinians, Ahmed Moussa, 19, as he described the incident to police investigators. Moussa said the border policemen had beaten him and his cousin, Mahmud Ramzi, 27, with clubs, tied them to a jeep and dragged them on a dirt road.

Channel 1 said the two had entered Israel without permits in violation of the closure imposed on the West Bank. The three border policemen are in a unit that carries out joint patrols with Palestinian policemen.

Lim

Hadassah denounces Palestinian accusations of racism

By JUDY SEGEL

Hadassah Medical Organization director-general Prof. Shmuel Penchas denounced a Palestinian human rights organization for "lying" on an Internet site and in publicity material, that claimed Hadassah-University Hospital "expelled" all Palestinian patients after the Mahaneh Yehuda bombing.

In a letter to Palestinian Authority Health Minister Dr. Riyadh Za'anoun, Penchas referred to a claim on Bir Zeit University's Internet site (<http://www.birzeit.edu/lawe>) that the Ein Kerem hospital had "expelled" a 20-year-old patient named Randa Hassouna.

She "was in intensive care when she was informed she had to leave. They took out the glucose injection from her arm, then asked her to pack and go. Randa was not accompanied by her relatives," the Bir Zeit statement said, "and she encountered numerous difficulties while on her way home."

"Another patient, Issa Al Makhamra, suffering from a severe spinal infection, was similarly expelled from the hospital and was forced to hire a taxi and leave as quickly as possible. Ali Shihada, 75, of Nablus was also

expelled without prior warning."

Penchas declared that "needless to say, this information is untrue and false. No patient was expelled from the hospital before, during or after the Mahaneh Yehuda terror bombings."

He added that Randa Hassouna from Ramallah was hospitalized for three days in the short-term hospitalization unit, and not intensive care, and released when she no longer needed treatment. Issa Al Makhamra from the village of Yatta was hospitalized at the Mount Scopus hospital in April for six hours. Hadassah had treated two patients named Ali Shihada, and it was not clear whom the Bir Zeit statement was referring to, neither had visited Hadassah during the past year, Penchas said.

Penchas added that although Hadassah was "being blamed for a serious and racist" incident, over half of its pediatric oncology beds, for example, are taken up by Palestinians. In addition, both Za'anoun and his deputy were treated at the Ein Kerem hospital last week.

He urged the PA health minister to deny the false accusations, and sent copies to PA Chairman Yasser Arafat and his adviser, former Hadassah gynecologist Dr. Ahmed Tibi.

US panel looks to halt Israel missile program

By STEVE RODAN

A Congressional committee has recommended halting US funding for Israel's development of a ballistic missile interceptor, which is a major component of Israel's emerging anti-missile defense system.

The House Appropriations Committee recommended that funding for the Israeli-USA Boost Phase Intercept (BPI) program be diverted to a far more ambitious US

Air Force program called Air Borne Laser.

Israeli defense sources expressed concern and lobbyists in Washington are hoping to convince a joint House-Senate conference committee to overturn the recommendation.

The BPI program has been funded to the tune of \$20 million over the last two years.

See PANEL, Page 12

Israel slams EU letter to Arafat

By JAY BUSHINSKY

The European Union's ability to act as an honest broker between Israel and the Palestinian Authority was called into question here yesterday by its criticism of the closure imposed on the West Bank and

Gaza Strip after the Jerusalem suicide bombing on July 30.

"Triggering a new crisis in the relationship between the EU and Israel was a letter sent by the multinational body's current president, Luxembourg's Jacques Poos, to PA Chairman Yasser Arafat.

A reaction emanating from the Foreign Ministry stressed that "Poos refrained from demanding that Arafat take practical steps against the terrorist infrastructure."

Particular exception was taken to the EU's comment that "Israel cannot expect the PA to act against terrorism because of its refusal to transfer tax revenues to the PA even though there is no basis for this in view of past precedent."

The text of the EU letter, released by the Foreign Ministry, also describes the measures enforced on the Palestinians by Israel as "excessive."

See EU, Page 12

Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's daily Chance drawings, the first winning cards were the queen of spades, 9 of hearts, 10 of diamonds, and 7 of clubs, and in the second draw were the jack of spades, 8 of hearts, 9 of diamonds, and jack of clubs.

In yesterday's weekly Payis Hazak drawing, ticket number 166313 won NIS 1 million, while ticket number 725042 won the car.

Tickets 378446, 553731, 510602, 086046, 498263, 024008, 344464 and 625325 won NIS 5,000. Tickets ending in 94366, 58265, 14661, 85667, 11887, 13093, 87505, 61372, 99454, 07118, 21072, 15657, 78003, 50640, 55921, 06485, 69889, 82412 and 40957 won NIS 1,000.

Tickets ending in 411, 075, 637 and 290 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 68, 80, 97 and 25 won NIS 30. Tickets ending in 66 and 85 won NIS 20. And tickets ending in 0 or 8 won NIS 10.

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No progress in search for killer of hitchhiker

By DOUGLAS DAVIS and news agencies

Negev District police said they were pursuing all avenues of investigation to locate the gunman who shot and killed Jeffrey Max Hunter, a British tourist, and wounded his girlfriend, Charlotte Gibb, north of Eilat early Wednesday morning.

One lead fell through yesterday when the owner of a vehicle seen near the site of murder was located and questioned, and turned out to have had nothing to do with the incident.

Police said the driver may have fled to Egypt.

Hunter and Gibb were shot about 80 kilometers north of Eilat by a man from whom they had accepted a ride, as they were making their way from the southern resort town to Tiberias.

The pair had arrived in Israel last Friday and were planning to spend part of a six week vacation working on a kibbutz near Tiberias.

Gibb, who suffered moderate wounds to her right hand, left arm, and her cheek, said it was "a miracle" she was still alive.

"We were having a cigarette outside the car, during a rest from the journey, and then I just saw lots of flashes and he'd shot us," Gibb said. "There was silence, and then I weren't really speaking, and then I



Charlotte Gibb. (AP)

just saw the light," said Gibb, a student from Peterborough in eastern England.

"The miracle was that the bullets that hit her face did not cause damage save for soft tissue. The bullet in her arm caused no damage to the nerves or artery," a doctor who treated her told Channel 2 yesterday. "The battle now is to prevent infection," he said.

Minutes after the shooting, soldiers found Gibb beside the road and administered first aid. Hunter had died instantly.

As Gibb's parents arrived here yesterday to be with their daughter, who is recovering in Beersheba's Soroka Hospital,

Hunter's parents were waiting for the return of their son's body.

His father, Norman Hunter, a clerk with a finance company, said his family was devastated. "Max was the best son anyone could hope for," he said. "He was good at everything - sports, athletics, and he loved music. He was a tremendous young man with an infectious personality and a great sense of humor. He had a great future ahead of him."

Hunter, a law student from Surrey, south of London, "loved Israel and had gone there to sort things out and think about his future," his father continued. "It was a horrific thing to happen. He was loved by everyone and the only thing we can hope is that Charlotte will be all right and that they catch the man who did this."

While playing down the impact on tourism from Britain, Israeli officials acknowledged that the shooting would do little to "enhance the attractions of Israel" in the highly competitive Mediterranean tourism market.

The British Foreign Office yesterday advised British visitors to Israel to be extremely careful and warned that tourists who accepted lifts from strangers were running unnecessary risks.

Police asked that anyone who might have seen anything that could aid in the investigation, to call 050-225892.



The baby saved by dialysis at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital.

Infant with rare disorder saved by dialysis

By JUDY SIEGEL

The life of a baby from the North who was born two weeks ago with a very rare metabolic disorder was saved in Jerusalem after she received appropriate treatment at Shaare Zedek Hospital.

The baby suffers an inherited disorder called "maple syrup urine disease" or branched chain ketoaciduria, in which an enzyme needed for the breakdown of three amino acids (valine, leucine and isoleucine) is lacking.

The disease, usually discovered in infancy, is recognized by the typical odor of maple syrup in the urine and by unnatural reflexes.

She was in a hospital in the North for a few days, but when her condition deteriorated she was transferred to the Jerusalem medical center, which has much experience in treating metabolic diseases in children.

She arrived with a low pulse and respiration and hardly reacted to her surroundings. Doctors resuscitated her and began to remove the poisonous amino acids that had accumulated in her blood via hemodialysis.

Dr. Ya'acov Frishberg, head of the pediatric nephrology unit, noted that dialysis in newborns is extremely rare, posing dangers and requiring much skill from the staff. A catheter was inserted into her chest so she could be connected to the dialysis machine. Her blood was cleaned twice and her condition improved.

Dr. Orly Alpeleg, head of the metabolic disease unit, said that the baby must be fed according to a strict diet, that does not contain those amino acids her body cannot break down.

Barak: PM's Syria proposals are too compromising

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN and LIAT COLLINS

Labor Party Chairman Ehud Barak yesterday blasted Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's proposal for peace with Syria as a mistake and said it was "too compromising."

Barak said he would continue to try to bring about the resumption of talks between Israel and Syria, as well as with Israel's other Arab neighbors, despite Netanyahu's objections.

Barak would not comment on the report that Syrian President Hafez Assad refused to accept a letter from him, until he had spoken to MK Nawaf Massalha, with whom the message had been sent, on the latter's return from Syria today. Massalha reportedly forwarded the message orally.

Sources close to Barak expressed astonishment at the Likud's attacks on Labor's leader for sending a message to Assad via the Israeli Arab delegation to Damascus, when Prime Minister

Binyamin Netanyahu had done the same thing.

Netanyahu sent Assad a message three weeks ago proposing a link between the security arrangements Syria would agree to and the extent of Israel's withdrawal from the Golan. *Yediot Aharonot* reported yesterday. This was denied by the prime minister's spokesman, but confirmed by a senior official. Another message was sent via Netanyahu's advisor Uzi Arad, who passed it on to members of the delegation before they left for Damascus.

The sources said that when Netanyahu was opposition leader he had sent Assad a message urging him to wait until after the elections, hinting that he would be easier to reach an agreement with. This, according to Labor leaders, made Assad take a tougher stand with Rabin and Peres's governments. Netanyahu denied it at the time.

Barak said yesterday that linking the withdrawal in the Golan

only to security arrangements, as Netanyahu offered, was more compromising than his proposal, which conditioned Israel's withdrawal on normalization, water and economic agreements, agreements concerning terrorism and the situation in Lebanon, in addition to the security arrangements.

Barak warned that Netanyahu's proposal constitutes a threat to peace and normalization, two issues which cannot be overlooked.

Likud spokeswoman Ronit Eckstein said: "Despite Barak's efforts and pleas to pass on a message to the Syrian president - in an attempt to signal that he is prepared for concessions on the Golan Heights - Assad refused to accept the message."

"The Likud stresses that it would be right for Barak and his party to support the government's efforts to protect the state's interests instead of undermining them. The Likud hopes Barak will draw conclusions from his serious error."

Rabinovich: Israeli Arab visit indicates 'sea change' in Syrian attitudes

By JONATHAN TEPPERMAN

Since the delegation of 42 Israeli Arabs arrived in Syria last week, most of the media's attention has naturally focused on the delegates' travels and on their sometimes provocative statements regarding Israel and its leaders.

But one question has been left unanswered: Why did Syrian President Hafez Assad initiate the trip, and have his goals been achieved?

According to Itamar Rabinovich, a former ambassador to the US and the Labor government's chief negotiator with Syria, the answer is complicated, thanks in part to Syrian bungling of the visit.

"What the Syrians wanted to accomplish was to send, in their own way, a positive message to Israeli public," he said. "Now, I don't think it has come across quite the way they wanted, and I think that the trip has been mishandled. But that was the idea."

Rabinovich said that "the trip itself is a sign that the Syrians now want to play in Israeli politics through the Arab minority here. You must remember that the Egyptians already do it; King Hussein of Jordan does it; and Arafat does it. Syria is a hugely influential regional power which has decided to extend its influence to this community."

For Rabinovich, the trip therefore signals a sea change in Syrian attitudes.

"Syria has now reached a level of sophistication whereby it can play this [Israeli Arab] card in a way it never could before. The 1994 trip [by Arab MKs], for example, was an American idea which the Syrians had foisted onto them and which they

accepted only grudgingly. It reveals a lot that this time the initiative for the trip came at the Syrian's own accord."

Unfortunately for Damascus, the harsh criticism of Prime

Minister Binyamin Netanyahu that emerged from the Syrian capital may only succeed in increasing tension between the two countries, and may damage the standing of Israeli Arabs.

Two MKs visit Syrian Jews

On the last day of their week-long controversial visit to Syria, two participants from the Israeli Arab delegation - MKs Sallah Tarif (Labor) and Taleb A-Sanaa (Democratic Arab Party) - met with members of the Syrian Jewish community, toured the Jewish quarter and visited a synagogue.

The head of the community, Yousef Jajati, whom they met in his home, sent a letter of regards in Hebrew to Prime

Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and called on him to "make peace with Syria and the Arab world and the Palestinians, a people who want to live."

The delegation asked to visit the Jewish community at the start of their trip, but permission was only granted by the Syrian authorities yesterday afternoon. The Syrian Jewish community now numbers between 100 to 200.

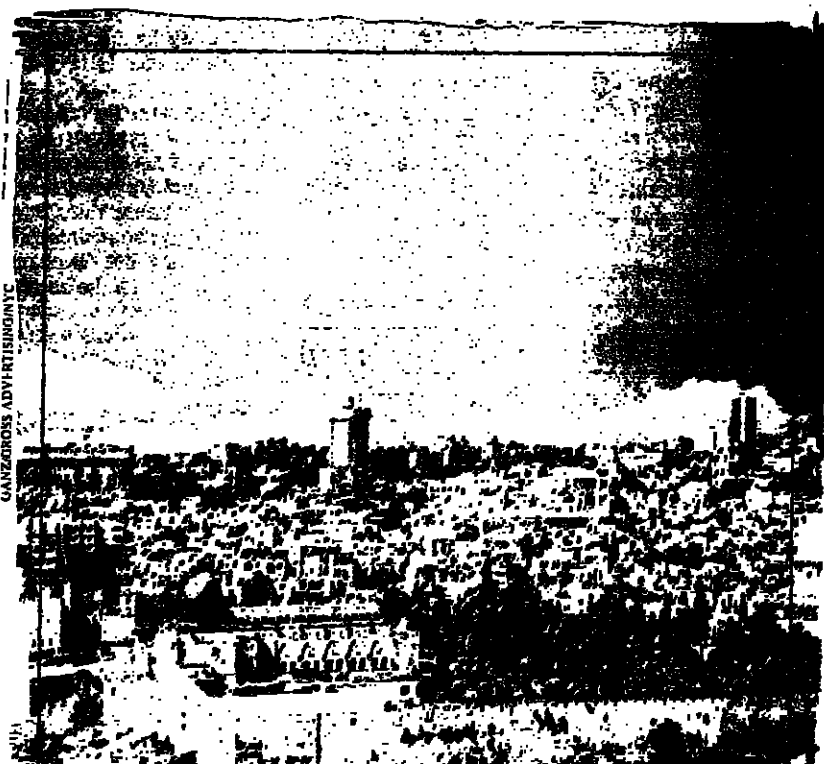
Community members told the

MKs and journalists that many of the younger generation had emigrated. Rahamin Levy told Israeli Radio he had stayed in Syria because he had work and friends there, but his children live in the US. Asked about their treatment in Syria, Levy said that there had been problems 30 and 50 years ago, but not today.

A-Sanaa reportedly said the situation of the Jewish community in Syria is better than that

of the Arabs in Israel. Several members of the Israeli Arab delegation met in Damascus on Wednesday night with leaders of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a spokesman for the group told Agence France Presse yesterday. However, the spokesman denied that they met with the group's leader, George Habash, currently in Amman.

Liav Collins



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The steps not taken

The problem with the government's decisions on the budget on Wednesday is that what is good may not be real, what is real may not be good enough, and what is critical is missing entirely.

The best, most mouth-watering part was the adoption of a blueprint for about 100 structural reforms in the economy. Most involved opening up competition in important sectors such as local telephone calls, the bus companies, satellite television, local air transport, and others.

Yet such lists of structural reforms have been trotted out and approved before, most recently in January; implementation is another matter. The decision to move forward should not be dismissed, as it has by some people, because such decisions are certainly welcome and necessary.

If anything, the adoption of so many reforms at once raises the concern that none of them will receive the concentrated backing needed to make them happen. If the government wants to increase public confidence that it is serious about the structural reforms, it would be wise to follow up its decision with a much shorter list of top priority projects, justified by projections of their direct benefit to the public, and backed by a detailed time line for implementation.

The more immediate and real parts of the cabinet action were the decisions to cut the 1998 budget by NIS 2.3 billion and to set an inflation target of 7 percent to 10 percent. The budget cut is certainly not to be sneezed at, nor will it be easy to implement. The question is whether it will be enough to maintain the momentum towards transforming the Israeli economy, or whether—coupled with the high inflation target—it represents a gradual weakening in the government's resolve.

The budget cut decided upon will ostensibly result in a deficit that is 2.4% of GNP. It is quite likely, however, that it will be "discovered" in the middle of the year that another large cut will be necessary to meet the target, because the budget revenue estimates were not realistic.

target, which would have maintained the government on this path, but the cabinet rebuffed him and instead went with the Finance Ministry recommendation.

Though the one percent difference between the Bank and the Treasury on inflation targets might seem minuscule, it is the difference between moving forward and standing still. With inflation currently at roughly 10 percent, Frenkel argued, with some logic, that there is not point in a target that is no different than the status quo.

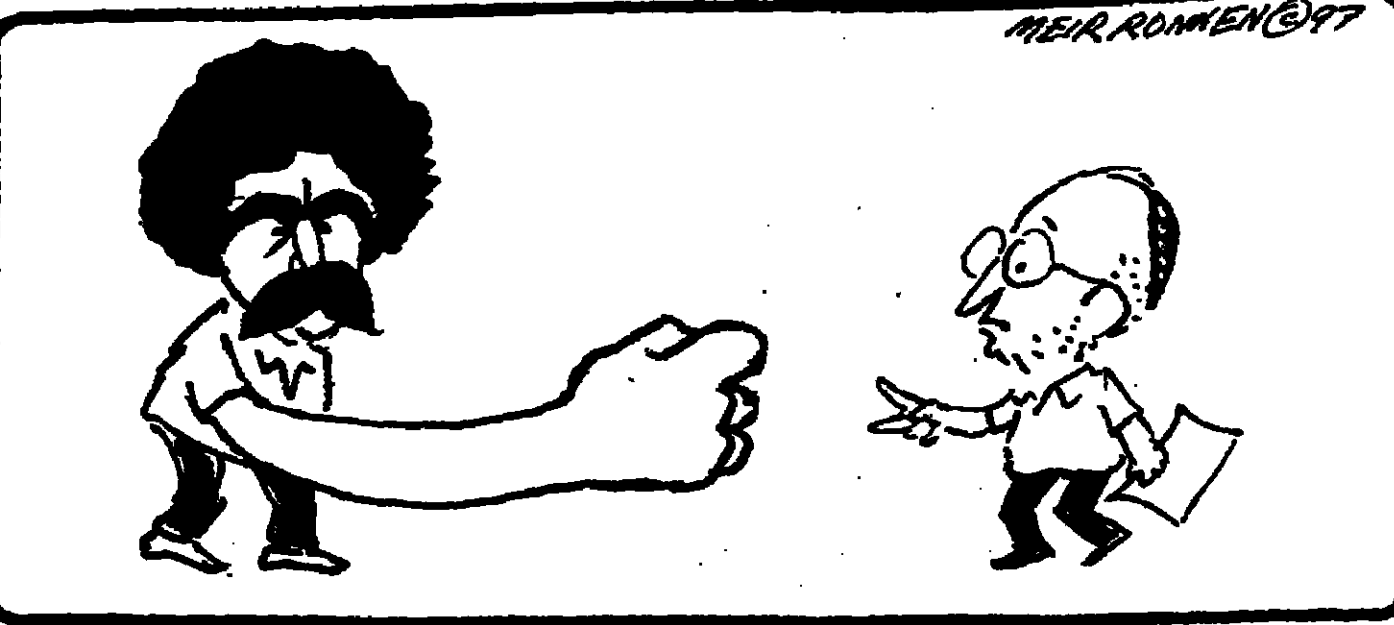
By going with the Treasury, the government effectively signaled that reducing inflation was no longer a priority. The Treasury won the day with the perennial argument that a too-determined battle against inflation would cause unemployment.

In fact, the idea that fighting inflation causes unemployment is shortsighted at best and fanatical at worst. The clear record in the United States and elsewhere is that low inflation triggers boom times in employment, and high inflation causes uncertainty and leads companies to put their hiring plans on hold.

Furthermore, inflation is a hidden tax on the weaker sectors of society. The "social lobby," the Histadrut, and industrialists may not care about all the non-government workers whose salaries are not linked to inflation, but it is they who will suffer most as their income is eroded.

However critical the decisions on structural reform, the budget, and the inflation targets were, one of the most important elements of any serious reform of the economy seems not to be on the radar screen. Three government-owned banks control 80 percent of Israeli bank assets, own more than half of the mutual funds, and dominate the stock market and much of Israel's industry through shareholdings, subsidiaries, and associated holding companies.

There is every reason to believe that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu understands full well that realizing his vision of a booming, world-class, economy will depend on cracking the hard nuts of overblown government, inflation, and over-concentration of assets. To succeed, he will have to bring his case outside the cabinet room and explain to the public what reform will mean for their children's hope for a job when they finish the army, for their paycheck, for the cost of their home, and the quality of their education.



To believe or not to believe

MOSHE ZAK

Should we believe Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri or Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat concerning the identity of the terrorists that fired Katyusha rockets into Kiryat Shmona last week?

Should we believe Hariri, who claims that it was members of Fatah, or Arafat, who totally denies this accusation and lays the blame for the Mahaneh Yehuda bombing on Hizbullah?

Israel signed the Oslo Accords with Yasser Arafat. It requires him to cooperate in the spheres of intelligence and security.

Negotiations with Arafat on intelligence and security cooperation are now in full swing.

It is hard to rely on Arafat, who claimed in an interview on Israeli television that IDF officers told him that the Mahaneh Yehuda bombers came from abroad, not from PA territory.

DOUBTING Arafat's word in any future agreement brings us back to

Can we rely on the information, offered by Arafat a few weeks ago, that the two Palestinian suicide bombers on the Netzarim-Kfar Darom road on April 1 were sent by Israel's General Security Service?

Can we rely on someone who claims as Arafat claimed before a Labor Party youth delegation, that the suicide bombers at Beit Lid, in

the question posed by GSS head Ami Ayalon to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee: Is a weak Arafat or a strong Arafat better for Israel? Is it in our interest to strengthen Arafat so that he can impose order in PA territory? Alternatively, what would we gain from Arafat being weakened, or even overthrown?

Is a weak Arafat or a strong Arafat better for Israel?

January 1995, cooperated with extremist IDF officers, who supplied Hamas with Israeli ID cards?

It's true that Hariri's source was Hizbullah. Nevertheless, his version is more likely, for that organization usually takes pride in its acts of terrorism. When it disclaims shooting into the Galilee, Hariri can claim to believe Hizbullah.

Arafat can only make a statement that he is grieved at the campaign conducted against him by Lebanon, "especially now when a united Arab and Islamic stand is required in the face of the war between Israel and the Palestinian people."

Arafat? Or should we be satisfied that there is a Palestinian leader ready for coexistence with us? If that is the case, we must not threaten his leadership, in case his successor returns to the pre-Oslo days.

The discussion is reminiscent of the debate between us and the Americans in the 1960s, when some here believed it was possible to overthrow Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser, then in the forefront of those who threatened our existence.

The debate ended with Nasser's death in September 1970, and his successor, Anwar Sadat, signed a peace treaty with us. Israel cannot

tie its future, and certainly not its security, to Arafat's well-being.

"Am I stupid?" Arafat repeatedly asked the Israel Television reporter. No, he is not at all stupid, but he is not so smart that he can fob us off forever with denials.

Only now can one of his previous mistakes be revealed. After the Six Day War, before he increased his terrorist activity, his close friend, Hanni Elhassan, had infiltrated into the country leading a cell of terrorists made up of Palestinian students from all over Germany. Elhassan was caught and the GSS took him on a pleasant trip around Israel.

Arafat refused out of hand, even though he was (erroneously) convinced that Israel would immediately withdraw from the occupied territories. That is exactly what worried him. He believed that withdrawal would lead to peace with the Arab countries, and Fatah, which he then led, would lose its basis for war.

Arafat's thinking then was wrong, and he is wrong now in believing that he can hold an olive branch in one hand and a gun of war in the other. They don't go together.

The writer is a veteran journalist.

Syria's 'charm offensive'

MARK A. HELLER

Is Syria launching a "charm offensive" calculated to win the hearts and minds of Israelis? Unlike the condolence call following the death of Hafez Assad's son and heir, the current visit of an Israeli Arab delegation to Damascus is not connected with some specific event that could explain the deviation from the Syrian practice of shunning any contact with Israel or Israelis.

But Assad, a supremely cautious and calculating ruler, rarely does anything without a reason, and the most reasonable explanation for this event is that he has decided to add a few more carrots to the repertoire of sticks with which he attempts to influence Israeli and American policy.

Before the last elections, Assad used several signals to indicate his inclination to pursue a peaceful resolution of the conflict, even when negotiations were stalled and tensions were high.

These signals included the practical elimination of constraints on the freedom of Syrian Jews to travel abroad, a public information campaign extolling the virtues of peace, and the decision to join the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership in Barcelona even though Israel was also a member.

Each of these actions could be explained by other motives. Taken together, they represented, at least by Syrian standards, a fairly clear reflection of Assad's commitment to a political settlement.

For the last year, however, Israel and Syria have hunkered down in diametrically opposite positions. Not only do they disagree about whether or not negotiations ought to resume at the point reached in

March 1996, they even disagree on what that point was. In these circumstances, the indirect dialogue based on mixed signals was replaced by a more brutal exchange of verbal and other threats.

Despite occasional hints that the Israeli leadership was not necessarily committed to the uncompromising position on the Golan issue that it had projected during

THE tattered state of the peace process may offer some hope of active Arab solidarity in the event of a clash with Israel, and recent Syrian efforts to improve ties with Iran are designed to buttress Syria's position even more, but these developments do not override the need to reactivate the Syrian-Israeli track. The problem for Assad, of course, is to get Israel to change its

The visit to Damascus by an Israeli Arab delegation shows that Assad has decided to add a few more carrots to the repertoire of sticks with which he attempts to influence Israeli and American policy

the election campaign, Assad abandoned any pretense of trying to influence Israel through a combination of seduction and coercion. Instead, he relied almost exclusively on the Israeli and American fear of violence—in Lebanon or on the Golan Heights—to advance his agenda.

After a year, it is clear that this approach is unproductive. Israel shows no sign of accepting Syria's terms, and neither Israel nor the U.S. preoccupied with damage control on the Palestinian front, is treating the Syrian track with any sense of urgency. Meanwhile, the danger of uncontrolled escalation is at least as threatening to Syria as it is to Israel, particularly given Syrian concerns, however exaggerated, about the strategic implications of Israeli-Turkish military cooperation.

substantive posture without changing his own, and the most promising way to do this is to modify the mix of threat and reassurance.

Coupled with the denial of Hizbullah responsibility for the last Katyusha attack on Kiryat Shmona, the visit of Israeli Arab dignitaries, including some MKs, may mean that this is the course that Assad has again chosen.

Of course, the gesture—if it is one—is typically opaque and not a little clumsy. Imagine the reaction if a group of Syrian Jews wanted to travel to Jerusalem to express support for Israeli policy. On the other hand, Israel is a democratic society and cannot legitimately object to efforts by others to influence public opinion, even if they are intended to undermine domestic support for established government policy.

that, after all, is precisely what Anwar Sadat did in 1977.

But if this really is now Assad's approach, then the current visit is obviously inadequate. It can be helpful only if it is the beginning of other, more ambitious measures, especially the approval of direct contact between Syrians and Israeli Jews. At present, these do not even take place in international settings. To have a real impact on public opinion, they would have to happen in Syria and Israel, and if not yet in person, then at least on the television screen.

There is no shortage of evidence that Israelis would be receptive to positive expressions of Syrian intent. Recent polls show a large majority in favor of substantial compromise on the Golan Heights. Labor leader Ehud Barak has directly communicated his party's continuing commitment to the position formulated by Yitzhak Rabin that made serious negotiations possible, and even Rabbi Kadourie has publicly urged compromise for the sake of peace. In the delicate minut of hints and nods between countries in conflict, these things also matter.

A few years ago, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara gave an interview to Israel Television. If his purpose was to reassure, the accusatory tone and tendentious content of his message produced precisely the opposite result. Perhaps the time has come to try again.

The writer is senior research associate at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NO REAL DEMOCRACY

Sir, — In "How not to make decisions" (July 25), Moshe Arens explains why he opposes the direct election of the prime minister and expresses his hope that Israel will "return to parliamentary democracy" soon.

Arens and most people believe that Israel is indeed a democracy, but we are really a partyocracy. Knesset members represent political parties. Whenever MKs vote according to their conscience and against their party's position, they do so as individuals with no recognizable constituency.

To turn Israel into a true democracy, what we really need is the direct election of all 120 MKs. With the direct election of MKs, politicians will have to earn and keep the public's approval.

TSVI NOVEMBER
Jerusalem.

AUSTRIAN MACCABIAH TEAM

Sir, — The Austrian Delegation to the 15th Maccabiah shares the grief of our Australian brethren on the tragic death of three of its delegation to the games and wishes a speedy and full recovery to all the injured.

The tragedy that befell the Austrian team has of course overshadowed all else at the 15th Maccabiah. Yet, we are surprised and saddened that not one national leader, or Maccabiah official, nor any of the media in Israel, found the words to mention that also 11 members of the Austrian team were injured, some with broken limbs, when the bridge over the Yarkon collapsed before the ill-fated opening ceremony.

PETER TEICHNER,
Chef de Mission,
Austrian Delegation to the
15th Maccabiah Games
Herzliya (Vienna).

GRATEFUL MOTHER

Sir, — My son, Ben Gold, was one of the British teenagers involved in a recent incident that took place in Jaffa on July 22 when Bakr Abu Rabieh drove into and then attacked his group with a knife and sword.

I am writing to commend the courage and quick action of the off-duty policeman, Daniel Kolson, who tackled the attacker and risked his life in disarming him and subsequently arresting him.

As one of the parents concerned, I would like to express my deepest gratitude and praise for his bravery. Without his presence of mind and courage the outcome of that event would have been far more serious.

LULU GOLD
London.

NO CRIME

Sir, — In your paper of July 21, I read that three men were arrested by the Lod police for a sign that said "Mordechai is a failure, Sharon for defense." Having practiced law

in New York for four decades, I find it impossible to detect any crime in that sign. Has it come to the point where criticism professing to prefer one minister rather than the other is

a crime, or is it the ineptitude of the Lod police in making a silly arrest for no crime at all?

ARTHUR GRUDER
Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 years ago: On August 15, 1937, The Palestine Post reported that the 20th Zionist Congress meeting in Zurich held its last sessions. David Ben-Gurion, Chairman of the Jewish Agency's Executive, spoke on the significance of the adopted resolutions. He said that "The passionate and earnest debate regarding the proposed Jewish State in a part of Palestine demonstrated anew the depth and indissolubility of the Jewish people and Zionism's faith in the future."

British without any assent to the principle of Partition... "The Executive," he promised, "will carefully watch over the rights of the Jewish people under the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate."

50 years ago: On August 15, 1947, The Palestine Post reported riots on the Jaffa-Tel Aviv border. Stabbings, shootings and arson resulted in the death of three Jews and one Arab, and serious injuries to nine Jews and seven Arabs. Arson damaged lumber mills at Givat Herzl. Wild rumors circulated in Jaffa about the alleged Jewish atrocities. Egged buses

were showered with stones at the southern approaches to the city. A British patrol killed a 17-year-old boy Yoav Battan, in Haifa when he started running away and the soldiers mistook his school books for pamphlets.

25 years ago: On August 15, 1972, The Jerusalem Post reported that the two female Sabena hijackers got life terms. In Washington the White House hinted on a US-Soviet accord which would allow 35,000 Russian Jews to emigrate annually to Israel.

Alexander Zvielli

POSTSCRIPTS

FLOSSIE TORGERSOHN had one of those little dogs popularly called "hotdogs."

Her pet Chihuahua, Babette, lived up to the nickname.

Poor little Babette wound up a snack when a two-meter boa constrictor ate her.

"She was my life. She was so beautiful and sweet," Torgerson said, sobbing.

Animal control officials in West Hills, California, said there are no boas in the area and speculated it was a pet that escaped from its owner.

The 1-kg dog had gone outside through the kitchen's doggy door when it encountered the snake coiled on the patio.

"I think I'll hear her scream for as long as I live," Torgerson said. The two had been constant companions for nine years.

HISTORY'S TRUE visionaries brought civilization to where it is, right?

Not exactly... "Computers in the future may weigh no more than 1.5 tons." — Popular Mechanics, 1949.

"I think there is a world market for maybe five computers." — Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, 1943.

"I have traveled the length and breadth of this country [America] and talked with the best people, and I can assure you that data processing is a fad that won't last out the year." — The editor in charge of business books for Prentice Hall, 1957.

"But what is it good for?" — Engineer at the Advanced Computing Systems Division of IBM, 1968, commenting on the microchip.

would want a computer in their home." — Ken Olson, president, chairman and founder of Digital Equipment Corp., 1977.

"640K ought to be enough for anybody." — Bill Gates, 1981.

"So we went to Atari and said, 'Hey, we've got this amazing thing, even built with some of your parts, and what do you think about funding us? Or we'll give it to you. We just want to do it. Pay our salary, we'll come work for you.' And they said, 'No.' So then we went to Hewlett-Packard, and they said, 'Hey, we don't need you. You haven't got through college yet.'" — Apple Computer Inc. founder Steve Jobs on attempts to generate interest in his and Steve Wozniak's personal computer.

This "telephone" has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication.

THE WORLD'S most married man has died — yet none of his 29 wives were willing to attend his funeral.

Glynn Scotty Wolfe of Blythe, California, was laid to rest courtesy of a cemetery and funeral home that decided to pay to keep him from an unmarked public grave.

Sidney Presley, owner of Frye Chapel and Mortuary, said she decided to donate her \$2,500 services because it was the right thing to do.

"We're a small town," she said. "We care about what goes on here."

The flamboyant minister, who held the Guinness Book of Records title for most-married man for more than 35 years, died of coronary heart disease at age 88. He left 19 children.

Democracy revisited

Israel's new electoral and parliamentary system is an intellectual disgrace. It violates every democratic standard, including the majority principle, the fair distribution of powers and the collective responsibility of ministers. This legal enactment already has a sorry record in matters affecting appointments to public service. But the full potentiality of its damage to the national welfare broods over our country with pernicious effects.

So much for the bad news. The good news is that the protest against the current electoral system is growing in power and intensity. The revision is spread across varied parts of our political spectrum. An important organ of opinion led by former defense minister Moshe Arens has become aware of the system's manifold defects. Consequently the prospect of retreating from a wild eccentricity toward a common sense is greater than it was before. The central immorality in the current electoral system is its assault on the majority principle that should govern every electoral system. If 79 of the 120 members of the Knesset, which brought this system to fruition, believe that confidence should be withheld from a prime minister, that prime minister will still be entitled to remain in power!

ABBA EBAN

removed from the leadership of his nation by a single parliamentary vote, and you see the drastic contrast between a democratic and an undemocratic spirit in a mature nation.

In order to carry out a democratic function in a democracy, an Israeli prime minister ought not to seek or to possess the powers of a Mobutu or a Bokassa or a Castro-like dictator.

An Israeli prime minister ought not to seek or possess the powers of a Mobutu or a Bokassa or a Castro-like dictator

On the contrary, a salutary degree of vulnerability should accompany a public figure at every stage of his career. The avowed purpose of the new system was to reduce the extortionate capacity of small parliamentary groups. The predictable result has been to expand that extortionate capacity to a measure that makes extortion more tempting than ever before.

TODAY the Israeli parliament is fragmented to an intolerable degree. No solid majority belongs to a single party, or any two parties that hold power, in a measure compatible with a national mandate.

The supporters of the direct election of prime ministers have spread the legend that there is something in the current system

that approximates the American model. Nothing of the kind is true.

The American Founders sat for years in Philadelphia to enact a subtle formula designed to clip the wings of arbitrary power. They combined a powerful presidency with a checks and balances formula based on their experience as colonial subjects.

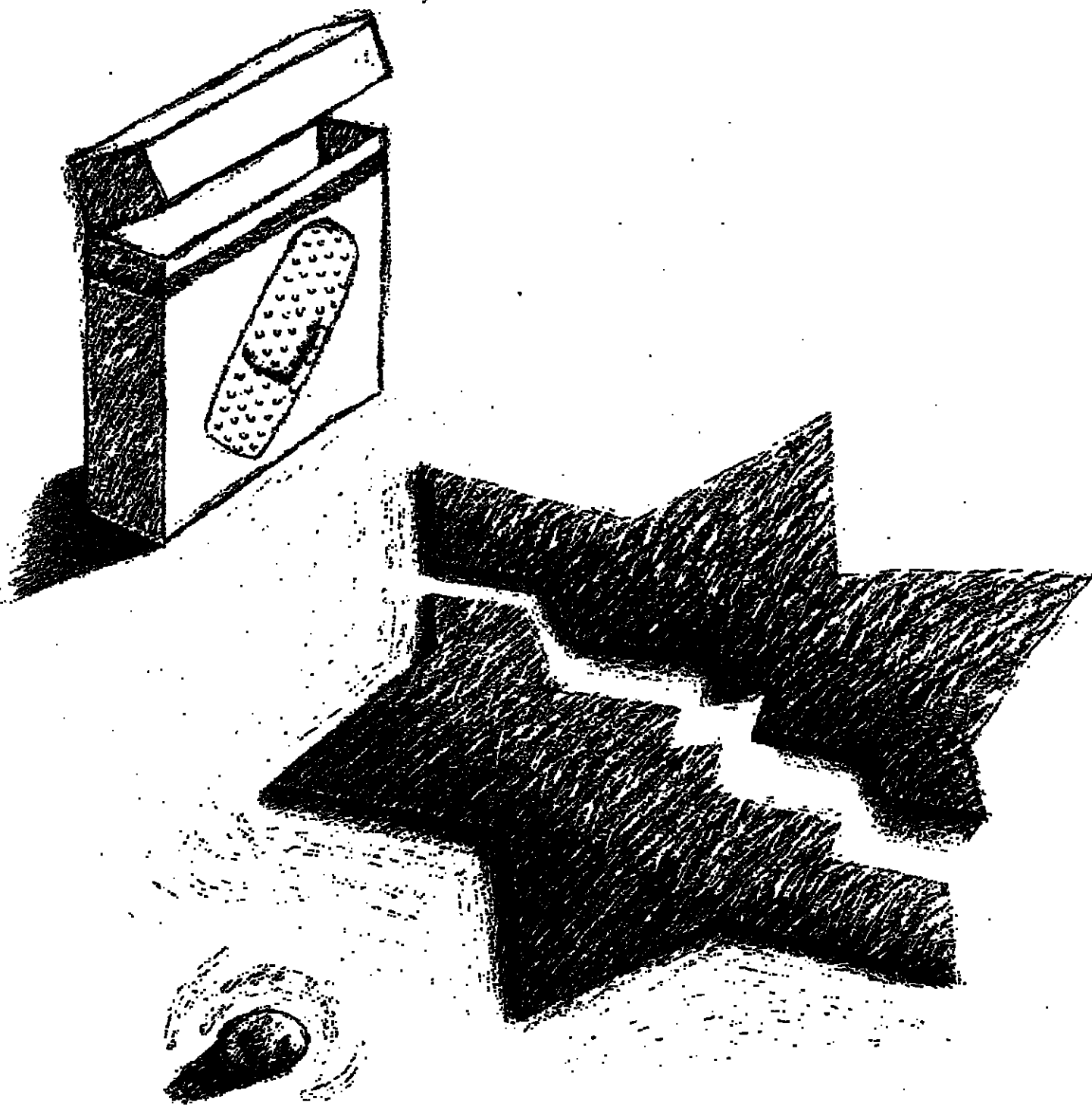
The philosophy underlying these measures is based on the idea that any man or woman exercising power can be tempted to carry that power beyond its due limit. How far this is from the frivolity and recklessness of the current Israeli legislation which concentrates all effective powers in the hands of a single ruler, resulting in the construction of a statutory despotism as remote from the thinking of the American framers as anything could be!

A corollary effect of a system that has stripped our body politic of both the stability that it professed to enhance, and the integrity that it promised to promote, can be seen in the decline of ministerial authority.

Israeli ministers under the present system are not apprised of any substantive information on the national condition. They fulfill the role ascribed to them by Gladstone: "It is absurd to count heads in assemblies in which there is such a difference in the contents of the heads."

The only hope for our nation's constitutional health lies in the resilience that sometimes rescues leaders from the consequences of their own fallibility. The nation has already been heavily overcharged for this evil manipulation.

The writer is a former foreign minister.



Confrontation: The whole point

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

world, in Israel, or even in Jerusalem that they must do it at the one site where it infuriates large numbers of other Jews?"

Unless, of course, confrontation is just the point.

A WOMAN I know was recently seated on a flight to Israel next to a young Ph.D. from Michigan. The younger woman told her that she was coming to study in a non-

The confrontation over egalitarian minyanim at the Western Wall owes more to politics than to religion

Orthodox "yeshiva," and that millions of dollars had been raised to sponsor students like herself.

Asked what else she would be doing, the young woman said she would be going to the Western Wall to put on a *shmatte* (old rag). Noticing her seatmate's puzzled look, she continued, "You know one of those *shmattes*," and tried to describe a prayer shawl worn around the neck.

This woman knew nothing about the Kotel other than it had once belonged to Jordan and now belongs to Israel, and she could not even recall the word for tallit. But she had been primed for the excitement of causing Orthodox Jews to gnash their teeth.

I experienced that same "in your face" attitude this past Rosh Hodesh, when a group of about 10 Women at the Wall stood leaning over the chain behind the men's section singing at the top of their lungs words not even found in the morning prayers. They knew, of course, that they were disturbing every single man at the Kotel, but that was just the point: We will not be ignored. A feminist statement, not a religious one.

Those who have raised millions of dollars to import women to put on *shmattes* at the Western Wall are hardly unmindful that con-

frontation advances their cause. The more trouble they can stir up, the better able they are to portray themselves in the eyes of their American brethren as a poor, beleaguered minority.

And they are certainly good at provocation. Like the old-time Bundists who stood outside synagogues on Yom Kippur eating ham sandwiches, they have chosen their symbols with care. The issue is not the right of anyone to approach the Kotel and pour out his or her heart to God in any way he or she chooses. Rather it is our spiritual health as a people.

The most lapsed Italian Catholic still wants the Vatican to remain the Vatican. He would be outraged if a group of Protestant tourists were to come into St. Peter's Square and attempt to conduct a revival meeting. Yet today we Jews are opening up the door for everyone, including Jews for Jesus, to conduct their own public worship at our most sacred site.

The Wall arouses something very deep in the collective Jewish psyche. Fourteen years ago, a young Yale student came to our house on Rosh Hashana still wearing the cardboard kippa he had been given at the Kotel. Today, he is the Orthodox rabbi of a thriving community.

Another friend, backpacking around the world, stood before the Kotel and requested God, "If these stones mean anything, and if You exist, give me a sign." At that moment, he was tapped on the back by a rabbi and asked if he would like to visit a yeshiva. He's still there 18 years later.

But if the Kotel becomes a Hyde Park corner for the proclamation of every Jew's politics or personalized religion, our last link with the Temple will be severed and our most enduring national symbol drained of its power.

The writer is a biographer and contributing editor to The Jewish

G H F R E E D M A N © 1 9 9 7

Dealing with the religious crisis

ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

In 1989, prime minister Yitzhak Shamir called a Conference on Jewish Solidarity, attended by Diaspora Jewish leaders. The wind-up of the conference was in a ceremony at the Western Wall.

This Tisha Be'av, the solidarity of the Jewish people suffered a serious defeat at the Western Wall. Conservative Jews were denied the right of worship in the parking lot well outside the prayer area.

Faced with a hostile crowd, the police opted to deny a basic right and to expel the Conservatives from the area. This is contrary to court rulings with regard to other fundamental rights, such as freedom of expression and the right to demonstrate. Is the right to worship outside the prayer area of the Western Wall any different?

The High Court split three ways when the issue involved non-Orthodox prayer inside the prayer area. In 1989, the same year as the Shamir Solidarity Conference, the court turned down a petition by non-Orthodox women seeking to be permitted to pray, robed with tallit and reading from a Torah scroll that they asked to carry with them.

As against the contending views of justices Menahem Elon and Shlomo Levin on the rights of the non-Orthodox women, court president Meir Shamgar held a middle view, recommending the creation of a committee to work out arrangements permitting the non-Orthodox freedom of worship, with minimal damage to the sensibilities of the Orthodox majority.

During Mandatory times, when it came to the Western Wall, the national institutions of the Zionist movement never permitted religious interests to take priority over national interests. Either the

tables have been turned, or Jewish solidarity is no longer a compelling national interest.

Thus, on Tisha Be'av, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani termed the Conservative worship a "provocation" and implied that the expelled worshippers should be grateful to the police for saving them from a pogrom.

Jerusalem police chief Yair Yitzhaki went even further.

such disputes are best resolved outside the judicial arena - seems to be bearing fruit with regard to the conversion controversy. There, a committee chaired by Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman has reportedly achieved a basis for a compromise. A forum including representatives of the non-Orthodox trends is to set criteria for preparation for conversion, with the Orthodox monopoly pre-

woman, at that) to the Netanya Religious Council.

Even though Menahem Elon, an observant, recognized religious scholar authored this decision, it was accepted with howls of protest from the clerical camp. Later, in 1993, a committee headed by Haim Zilok, a former justice minister, recommended reforms in the appointment and functioning of the religious councils. These recommendations were ignored.

As late as May of this year, State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat issued a special report on the religious councils. She noted the delays of up to 10 years in manning the councils, "especially on the basis of political affiliation or religious suitability" of the candidates. Her recommendation was for the enactment of a religious councils law.

The attack on the court by Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs Yigal Bibi is particularly inappropriate. If there was a need for judicial intervention, it is only because of the obstinate refusal of his own National Religious Party to face reality.

Bibi was once a popular mayor of Tiberias. In those days, he knew how to distinguish between religious observance in the neighborhoods in the heights overlooking the Sea of Galilee and down below, along the waterfront, where the tourists are concentrated. Since moving to the national political arena, Bibi seems to have lost his sense of direction.

The writer is a legal and political commentator.

Either the tables have been turned, or Jewish solidarity is no longer a compelling national interest

Appearing on the popular TV news magazine *A New Evening*, he studiously avoided addressing the participant Conservative spokesmen, an ordained rabbi, by her title. (First, "this lady," then "the woman sitting next to me.") Is it now part of the job of the police to decide who is a rabbi?

True, while the 1989 case was before the court, the relevant regulation on holy places for Jews was amended to specifically bar from the Western Wall religious ceremonies, not in accordance with prevailing custom, that offend the sensibilities of the praying public with regard to the site. Apparently even the police were not prepared to regard this as applying to prayers in the parking lot, which is why the spot was reportedly chosen for the Conservative devotions in preliminary negotiations.

served with regard to the final ceremony.

Clearly Neeman's enthusiasm for privatization does not carry over from economics to religion. This is as it should be.

In religious affairs, the private and the public are inextricably intermingled, particularly when the religion is Judaism in the Jewish state. However, it should be abundantly clear that the current religious status quo can continue only on the basis of an accommodation with the non-Orthodox trends.

The compromise Neeman reportedly brokered is now endangered, because of a new wave of fanaticism engendered by the recent High Court decision mandating the appointment of a Reform representative (and a

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Mir astronauts return to earth

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV

NEAR DZHEKAZGAN, Kazakhstan (AP) - Two weary Russian cosmonauts returned to Earth Thursday, ending a hard-luck tour that included the most serious accidents in the 11-year history of the Mir space station.

The two cosmonauts piloted their Soyuz capsule to a safe landing in the barren steppes of Kazakhstan, completing a six-month journey rife with accidents and breakdowns, including a frightening fire and a devastating crash.

Vasily Tsibilyev smiled weakly as he was lifted out of the charred capsule after it came to a stop in the remote desert. He signed autographs as medical technicians brought him into a tent and took his blood pressure, pulse and other measurements.

Asked how he felt, Tsibilyev had a one-word response: "Normal." Deputy Mission Control chief Viktor Blagov told reporters at Mission Control near Moscow that all systems worked fine during the descent. "According to the cosmonauts' reports, they are feeling well," he said.

"I want to congratulate the Russians on a successful landing," said NASA representative Keith Zimmermann told reporters in Moscow. "I'm sure the crew will enjoy seeing their families and are glad to be home." Before the crew departed, they hugged the two cosmonauts who arrived last week and wished them well in their mission on Mir.

"Let's hope that everything that went wrong is leaving with us," cosmonaut Alexander Lazutkin said.

Lazutkin and Tsibilyev disengaged their Soyuz capsule from the Mir shortly before 1 p.m. Moscow time and touched down at 4:17 p.m. in the desert about 170 kilometers southeast of the central Kazak city of Dzhezkazgan.

Several dozen rescue workers, medics and officials met them on the ground. They were to undergo medical exams before flying to Moscow later in the day.

US astronaut Michael Foale watched from the Mir as the seven-ton capsule neared Earth.

"They became very small and disappeared very fast," Foale said in Russian, and asked his colleagues to point out the landing



Mir crew commander Vasily Tsibilyev (left) and flight engineer Alexander Lazutkin celebrate their return to Earth with Russian officials after landing safely in the wastes of Kazakhstan yesterday.

site. "I know it's east of the Aral Sea, but where?" Mission Control operators heard him ask.

Since Soviet times, cosmonauts have landed in the deserts of Kazakhstan, a former Soviet republic, several hundred kilometers (miles) from the cosmopolis in Baikonur, from where they blasted off. Russia's space programs continue to use the former Soviet facilities under an arrangement with the Kazak government.

The Russian media and some space officials have grumbled about the performance of the outgoing crew, saying at least some of their problems appeared self-inflicted. Others, meanwhile, said

their efforts to keep the Mir functioning were nothing short of heroic.

"The two have been through one of the most difficult space flights in history," The Moscow Times, an English-language daily, said in an editorial Thursday.

Tsibilyev, the commander, "helped keep the orbital battlewagon going, six years past its intended expiration date in conditions of terrifying uncertainty," the newspaper said.

"His bosses should call it even and give him a hero's welcome." Tsibilyev suffered from an irregular heartbeat while on the Mir, a condition apparently brought on by stress and a lack of sleep,

according to Russian doctors. But space officials say his condition has since stabilized.

The replacement crew of Anatoly Soloyov and Pavel Vinogradov arrived on the Mir on Aug. 7. Foale, who arrived in May, will remain with them until his replacement arrives in late September.

The new crew, meanwhile, is moving ahead with plans for a difficult repair mission next Wednesday in the ruptured Spektr module, which was damaged in a collision with a cargo ship in June.

The cosmonauts need to reattach power cables to the module's solar panels, which will restore most of the station's power.

The cables were disconnected after the collision with the Spektr, which had to be sealed off because it was leaking precious oxygen.

As a first step, the cosmonauts and Foale will inspect and photograph the outside of the Spektr on Friday when they fly around the station to redock their Soyuz escape capsule.

He warned that it is too early to determine whether the previous crew or technical failures are to blame for the Mir's run of bad luck. A commission will interview the cosmonauts and make that determination.

"It would be better to wait for the commission to reach its conclusions," Blagov said.

Column One

Tie that Vegemite down, sport

By Thomas O'Dwyer



Two years ago the *The Sydney Morning Herald* asked readers to list what Australian national icons should feature on a new series of stamps. Cruising into easy places in the first five came a salty black goo called Vegemite, a "Drizabone" raincoat and hat, a meat pie of unknown composition, a bronzed lifeguard, and a rotating metal clothes line.

Well, if that's how Australians see themselves symbolized, don't complain, clobber, about the jokes foreigners make. In that Herald poll dominated by trash food and trivial accoutrements, the cultural icons of Sydney Harbor Bridge and The Opera House came in a joint sixth, the natural wonder of Ayers Rock, seventh.

In an obvious wish to roll back the country's image of a hard drinking country, the readers placed "a can of beer" in a humble ninth place. The only Aboriginal icon to feature was the digeridoo - a sort of musical hollow log made famous by a bearded white man, Rolf Harris, with the moving song "Tie Me Kangaroo Down, Sport."

Granny Smith

Alas, the digeridoo came in among the "others" below the tenth place, which was claimed by a soggy coconut-covered chocolate sponge roll. Just the ticket to set alongside that can of beer - perhaps with a Granny Smith.

(This most famous apple variety was found by accident in 1868 after one Maria Smith threw some Tasmanian apple cores into her garden in Sydney.) The national post office declined to accept the Herald's sterling research.

Washington Post columnist Charles Krauthammer last month disturbed a small hornets' nest with an essay praising the legacy of the British Empire, in which he referred to Australia. One enraged Aussie, in a reader's tirade, fumed that "Australia was built on the backs of Irish prisoners" shipped there as convicts for daring to oppose the colonialism "Mr. Krauthammer has failed to justify." Phew! Yes indeed, Aussies are touchy about anything to do with the Poms (British). In reality, the British government shipped a lot more petty English criminals and than Irish patriots to Australia.

There has of course been a dark side to all this money, back-slapping bonhomie which in America would be recognized as "good ole boys" culture - narrow, trivial, ritual, and red-neck racist regarding Aborigines.

Twenty years ago in Australia it was common for visitors to be told by otherwise intelligent Australians: "Scientists have proved that Abos have inferior brains. We can't do anything with them." In Tasmania, early settlers simply killed them all.

White Australia

Well, sociologists and events have since proved that such Australians didn't have real human sensibilities. Just as historians have proved that despite the denials of post-war governments, there was indeed such a thing as an active white Australia policy. And it was a policy the Pomnies actively colluded in. The British parliament said this week it will investigate the cases of tens of thousands - maybe 150,000 - of British orphans shipped abroad during World War II and for decades afterwards.

Most were not orphans at all, just abandoned by parents. The official reason was so they could find better lives. But it seems the real reason may have been to augment the white populations of former colonies - particularly Australia. Just as colonialism still haunts as well as enhances British relations with countries like Australia, so Australia's own sins against those who were there first are coming back to haunt them.

On August 30th, the great outbreak of Northern Territory will vote under the shadow of a bitter year-old racial debate. The campaign began this week and the region's Aborigines warn it will be hot one. On the table - Aboriginal native title claims to farm lands.

Black bashers

Conservative Prime Minister John Howard is trying to quash the claim against fierce opposition from Aborigines and human rights activists. A quarter of Northern Territory people are Aboriginal. About 80 percent of the territory's 1.34 million sq km could qualify for native title. Aborigines already have freehold control over 50 percent of the territory under existing laws.

There is a vocal redneck element - even a fuzzy Ku Klux Klan chapter - in the territory and it is determined to play the race card heavily. Black bashing, in simple Australian.

But black bashing is no more fashionable in real Australia than in Europe or America. Far from it. The 2000 Olympics organizers in Sydney are preparing the Festival of Dreaming - a tribute to Australia's rich native arts and culture.

Lydia Miller, the aboriginal actress heading the project, wants to change for ever the "white Australia" image of their wide brown land. "I think of it as something like 301 nations - 300 indigenous nations and one nation called Australia," she said in a recent interview.

And, speaking of prejudice, Vegemite isn't even Australian.

The "pure vegetable extract" (that!) was launched in 1923 by a company which, in 1935 was bought by the Kraft cheese conglomerate. For 62 of its past 74 years, Australia's goetj icon has been one hundred percent American.

INDIA

Continued from Page 1

"New Delhi looks like a bride," said Charu Goel, an accounting student in the crowd of spectators estimated at 200,000 by police.

"The message today is loud and clear. We are one, and we will always remain one," Prime Minister I.K. Gujral said in a speech after the parade, addressing the crowd from a bandstand set up at the end of the route. He then waved a large national flag presented to him by a group of freedom fighters. Moments later, fireworks lit up the skies over New Delhi.

Few signs of public enthusiasm were evident in the build-up to the anniversary. Souvenirs were scarce and sold in only two shops in the capital, newspapers reported.

Parliament was summoned for a midnight session to replay the speech by India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, rededicating India's "tryst with destiny."

"At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom," Nehru told the nation the night of August 14, 1947 in his high-pitched, Cambridge-accented English. "As long as there are tears and suffering, so long our work will not be over."

Referring to fellow independence leader Mohandas Gandhi, Nehru added that "the ambition of the greatest man of our generation has been to wipe every tear from every eye."

From Pakistan, Prime Minister Sharif reportedly sent his Indian counterpart a note echoing an earlier speech in which he hoped for an end to the blood feud between their countries.

"Over the past 50 years we have spent billions of dollars on defense and fought wars which have harmed both the countries," Sharif said in his speech.

India fought its last war with Pakistan in 1972. Today, its security concerns are within its own borders. Police blamed the explosion that killed seven people and wounded eight in the northeastern state of Assam on Bodo militants, seeking self-rule for their tribe of 4 million

people. The Bodo rebellion is just one of several tribal revolts in the remote northeast. Another insurgency in Kashmir, a territory also claimed by Pakistan, is smoldering in India's north, claiming more than 15,000 lives in the last eight years.

In a speech prepared for the midnight parliament ceremony, President K.R. Narayanan acknowledged that India had fallen short of Nehru's pledge on the same platform in 1947 to "abolish poverty, ignorance and disease from among our people." Drinking water, electricity and basic health facilities are still lacking for most, and corruption riddles public affairs, the president said.

According to World Bank figures, nearly half of India's 970 million people are illiterate. A country that 50 years ago was richer than Singapore now has a per capita income of \$340, while Singapore's is \$26,000.

But Narayanan - the first president drawn from India's "untouchable" class - extolled his country's achievement of preserving its democracy and unity.

Until the last moment, details of the midnight ceremony were in doubt, reflecting what many critics called the tardy and parsimonious planning of the nation's golden jubilee by a divided and ineffectual government.

Legislators faulted parliamentary leaders for inviting the speaker of the British House of Commons, Betty Boothroyd, to sit on the dais during the ceremony - to their minds, too much honor to the country that colonized India for 200 years.

For many Indians, the anniversary meant reliving partition, when the British India was splintered into Hindu-dominated India and the officially Moslem republic of Pakistan.

An estimated half a million people were killed in communal slaughter and more than 10 million refugees were shunted across the border, in the largest involuntary migration in recent history. Families - especially Moslem families - were irrevocably split.

Canadian woman, 116, world's oldest person

LONDON (AP) - Canadian Marie-Louise Febronie Meilleur, who will be 117 years old this month, is the world's oldest person, the Guinness Book of Records said yesterday.

The Quebec woman, described as a lifelong outdoorswoman, succeeds to the title last held by Jeanne Calment, who died this month in her native France at the age of 122. Meilleur, who will turn 117 on Aug. 29, has been married twice and has about 300 descendants. Her family said the secret of her long life was hard work and keeping active - she used to enjoy fishing and still loves the outdoors. She is also a vegetarian.

Meilleur was born Marie-Louise Febronie Chasse on Aug. 29, 1880, in the town of Kamouraska, Quebec, which lies 150 kilometers east of Quebec City along the south shore of the St. Lawrence River.

Not far behind Meilleur is

American Sarah Knauss, of Philadelphia, who will be 117 on Sept. 24.

Full documentation, including birth certificate, baptism certificate, census records, marriage certificates and a number of other documents confirming the women's ages have been verified by the Guinness Book of Records.

"Since Jeanne's death, we've been inundated with potential record claims from around the world," Guinness Book of Records records-keeper Clive Carpenter said.

"We have an extremely stringent process of verification, to ensure that only someone whose age can be proved beyond any shadow of doubt can be recognized as the record-holder," he said.

Some claims, including one from a man living in a remote Lebanese village, who is allegedly 135 years old, were dismissed because of lack of documentary proof.

Clinton orders federal agencies to permit religious expression

By SONYA ROSS

WASHINGTON (AP) - US President Bill Clinton has issued guidelines making it clear that federal workers are guaranteed religious freedom on the job, such as keeping a Bible in the office or wearing a yarmulke to work.

Clinton was to unveil a memorandum ordering the federal government to adopt the guidelines at a White House ceremony yesterday attended by some of the various faith groups who helped write them. Among those are the National Council of Churches, The Center for Law and Religious Freedom, the American Jewish Congress and People for the American Way.

A White House official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a draft of Clinton's memo says federal agencies must not discriminate on the basis of religion or coerce employees to participate in religious activity by offering an improved or worsened work situation.

The draft also says agencies must allow employees to engage in personal religious expression and "reasonably accommodate" religious holy days, even if doing so creates some hardship for the agency, the official said.

The guidelines do not allow federal workers to use their official positions to campaign for or against religion, and they stipulate that any rules already in place at federal agencies, such as a ban on posters, must still be followed.

"It's a fairly comprehensive catalog of instances... that are likely to arise," said Marc Stern, co-director of the American Jewish Congress's legal department. "All the common complaints that you hear, those are taken care of."

So, Christian employees who work for the government can keep Bibles on their desks. Muslim women can cover their heads, and Jewish men can wear yarmulkes. Workers would be able to discuss freely their faiths, as long as the co-workers to whom they are speaking do not object.

The rules reiterate the principle behind Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, which says that employers must accommodate a worker's religious practices unless it would impose undue hardship on the employer.

Iraqi oil begins flowing out of Iraqi-Turkish pipeline

ANKARA (AP) - Iraq restarted pumping crude oil into an Iraqi-Turkish pipeline for a second six-month period under a UN-approved deal yesterday, the Turkish energy ministry said.

The oil was being loaded onto the 29.4-metric-ton Maltese-flagged tanker Arcadia in the southern Mediterranean Turkish port of Ceyhan to be shipped to buyers, a ministry statement said.

The shipment is the first in the second phase of the UN's oil-for-food program, allowing Iraq to sell \$2 billion worth of oil over a six-month period to buy food, medicine and other humanitarian goods.

Under the first six-month agreement, which took effect in

December, the pipeline running from Kirkuk oil fields to Ceyhan carried 63.7 million barrels of oil.

Thursday's statement said Iraq was expected to sell 18 million barrels of crude via Ceyhan by the end of August by tripling the pumping capacity of the pipeline.

Turkey's state-run refinery Tupras will purchase 1.8 million barrels of that amount.

Twelve million barrels of Iraqi oil will be sold from an Iraqi oil port.

UN sanctions were imposed after Baghdad invaded Kuwait in 1990. The UN Security Council has said it will not lift the sanctions until Iraq has complied with all UN resolutions, including those calling for the elimination of its weapons of mass destruction.

Twins' birthday is India's celebration

By MUNEEZA ARJUMAN

NEW DELHI (AP) - If coincidences were graded, this one would be an A-plus. Twin brothers born in India on the day the subcontinent gained independence from Britain were separated so that one grew up in Pakistan, the other in India.

The history of their lives is closely linked with that of their countries. Azhar Sherwani and Zafar Hameed were a year old when their mother allowed her brother and his wife, who was her best friend, to adopt Azhar. The Hameed family moved to Pakistan.

As India celebrates the 50th anniversary of independence today, Sherwani and Hameed are turning 50. Pakistan celebrated independence yesterday.

"Fifty years of a nation's independent life definitely call for celebration, especially if you can celebrate fifty years of your own life," Sherwani said.

In 1948, the year Sherwani and Hameed were separated, people on both sides of the border thought that India and Pakistan would share a friendly relationship, with easy cross border travel. Adoptions such as Hameed's are not uncommon in extended Indian families.

For a year, there was no question of visas and passports. But relations between the two countries worsened. Three wars were fought. Propaganda machinery on both sides added to the hostility.

In 1971, war was followed by the sealing of the border. When Sherwani married in 1972, his twin could not attend the ceremony.

The Sherwani and Hameed families were never directly touched by the violence, and each prospered on their side of the border.

Both twins are now successful businessmen. Azhar Sherwani is in New Delhi and Zafar Hameed in Lahore, Pakistan.

"Delhi is a ten-hour drive from Lahore, but I can never get into my car and drive over to meet my twin. My niece is getting married, but my children could not come because of visa difficulties," Hameed said during a recent visit to his brother's home in New Delhi. Travel is somewhat easier now, with the Indian and Pakistani governments attempting a rapprochement.

The roads travelled by independent India and Pakistan have been dissimilar. Large periods of the history of Pakistan were spent under military dictatorships, while India boasts the world's largest democracy.

"India was luckier than Pakistan in many ways. For 16 years after independence they had Nehru to guide them and to allow democracy to catch roots," Hameed said.

Mohammed Ali Jinnah, the founder of the state of Pakistan, died 13 months after the creation of his country.

India has problems of its own. Its widespread corruption, poverty, low literacy levels all find an echo in Pakistan.

"We have fought three crippling wars. The hostility between the two nations has led to greater defense expenditure, something that both nations can ill afford at a time when funds are desperately needed for development purposes," Sherwani said.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his Indian counterpart I.K. Gujral both seem committed to promoting friendly ties, which gives the twins hope.

"Business will definitely prosper and hopefully visas will be easier to come by," Sherwani said. His brother agreed.

While they agree on many things, their visions of the future are different. Sherwani believes that India and Pakistan should come together and become a superpower in South Asia. Hameed believes that unification is impossible, but good relations are not.

The funeral of **LEON SHALIT** who bequeathed his body to science will take place at Har Hamenuhot, Jerusalem, on Thursday, August 21, 1997 at 10:30 a.m. We shall meet at the main square. The Family

Friends of Bikur Cholim Hospital in Jerusalem mourn, together with the entire Bikur Cholim Hospital family, the death of **RAUBIN YEHUDA KINTSLINGER** Hannah Sondheim President Anita Susman Chairman of the Board

Eye of the storm

The opposition of the Orthodox parties and the Chief Rabbinate to Joyce Brenner's appointment to the Netanya Religious Council has forced her to reconsider her basic assumptions about religious coexistence, Dan Izenberg reports

Joyce Brenner seemed calm and composed last Monday, an hour after the High Court of Justice ruled her appointment to the Netanya Religious Council was already in effect and her eviction from a council meeting the previous week had been illegal.

Sitting in her living room a few days after returning from teaching duties at Yeshiva University in New York, she quickly responded to the phone calls that flooded in from friends and acquaintances wishing her luck.

"I didn't really expect this," said Brenner, who was nominated for the post three years ago by Shosh Arar, the head of the Meretz faction in the Netanya City Council. "I didn't expect to be the center of a storm."

The uncompromising opposition of the Orthodox parties and the Chief Rabbinate to her candidacy have forced her to reconsider some basic assumptions she had about religious coexistence. In a deposition to the High Court of Justice, one of her most vociferous opponents, Netanya Chief Rabbi David Shloush, wrote that Reform Jews were bigger heretics than Jesus.

"I have a strong personality, but I'm a tolerant person who tends to believe we can all live together with our differences," she said, a note of doubt creeping into her voice. "I had hoped that all the branches could talk together."

In some ways, Brenner is an ideal choice on the part of the Reform movement to help win the support it needs in its fight for legitimacy and power from millions of secular Israelis, who are generally indifferent to and ignorant of religious issues. Brenner is articulate, modest and low-keyed, but radiates strength, determination and courage without bluster. She also has credentials in both the professional and Jewish worlds.

The 57-year-old social worker grew up in Brooklyn in a Zionist home. Her father was an

Orthodox rabbi. She received her MA and Ph.D. from Yeshiva University and has taught there for the past 20 years.

Brenner said Judaism was central to her identity and one can sense that in even the most superficial visit to her home, in which Jewish art — paintings and candelabras — is displayed prominently. Her transition from Orthodox to Reform Judaism was motivated largely by her concern with women's rights.

"The Reform movement seemed the place I could stress this more actively and creatively," she said. "I started getting involved in the 1970s. Perhaps it had to do with the birth of my three daughters. My commitment to Israel, Judaism and women's issues were all part of the same thing. It was a way of ensuring that my daughters would be positive Jews."

BRENNER MOVED here in 1976, went back two years later to complete her doctorate at Yeshiva University's Wurzelweil School of Social Work, before settling in Netanya. She has been a member of Kehilat Netanya, the only Reform synagogue in the city, almost since the day of her arrival.

She has also been involved in public affairs on a voluntary basis, serving as chairwoman of the Social Workers' Association committee on the status of women and a member of the now-defunct Netanya Women's Council. She was also a founder of the Women's Awareness Center in Netanya.

But Brenner is not the type of public functionary who is seeking to build a base to launch a public or political career. In the past few days, she has turned down requests for television interviews in order to deflect attention from herself and cool tensions with the Orthodox community.

In the 1993 local elections, Meretz won three of the 27 municipal council seats and was therefore entitled to two or three slots on the city's religious council.



Joyce Brenner at the Netanya Religious Council meeting which she was forced to leave: 'I regard myself as a religious woman according to my own definition and the definition of the Reform movement.'

Arar asked Rabbi Mira Raz, spiritual head of Kehilat Netanya, to recommend someone from her congregation for one of the posts. Raz suggested Brenner. Four years and three High Court of Justice petitions later, Brenner is finally a member in good standing of the council, the first representative of the Reform Movement ever to have been appointed to a religious council.

She does not yet have any clear idea of what she will do on it. It is all new to her. But Brenner, Raz and other members of the Reform community are currently fashioning a program.

"I thought I could advance women's needs in the council," Brenner said. "Women's voices should be heard. I thought that because I'm a social worker, I could do this in a nice way, without antagonizing

the other members."

Beyond that, Brenner believes that as a Reform Jew she can better represent secular residents who do not feel comfortable dealing with Orthodox officials. She also believes there is need for more scrupulous supervision of council spending.

"We are a religious body representing the entire community," she said. "Minorities have the right to be heard in it. If everyone's money is being spent, everyone has the right to know how it's spent."

Brenner does not want to indulge in the vitriolic rhetoric that is so characteristic of Israeli public debate, especially when it comes to religious issues. She said she was hurt by Shloush's claims that Reform Jews are "heretics who deny God and his Torah and are more illegitimate than the founder of Christianity, who believed in the Creator, observed the Sabbath and other commandments."

"I regard myself as a religious woman according to my own definition and the definition of the Reform movement," Brenner said. "I observe commandments, but in a different way. I prefer not to grade them. I am a Jew in the full sense of the word."

She also denied that she would seek to act in contravention of religious law.

"There is a major dispute over how to interpret Halacha," she said. "I don't think it is my place on the council to break down Halacha. What I want to do is to expand the services offered to Reform Jews."

A matter of priorities

Rabbi Uri Regav, head of the Reform Movement's Israel Religious Action Center, which fought alongside Meretz for Joyce Brenner's appointment to the Netanya Religious Council and funded her legal representation, seemed scarcely perturbed this week by the prospect of new legislation to prevent more Reform appointments. It was not because he didn't care.

"He was simply preoccupied with an even fresher development: the brutal expulsion by police of a Conservative congregation reciting evening prayers near the Western Wall on Tisha Be'av. Could the Reform Movement in the US be expected to resist a law pre-

venting Reform Jews from joining religious councils as vigorously as it resisted the conversion law?"

"I expect that the same issue of religious pluralism will be the main issue of the agenda of Disputa Jewry and American Jewry in particular in the coming years," Regav said. "There will be several issues in this package. The question of Reform participation in the religious councils is only one of them; one of the central issues will be the right to pray at the Western Wall. I am sure this will be the subject of many petitions during the High Holidays."

But Regav quickly recovered and found sufficient cause for indignation over the issue of the

religious councils. He referred to a meeting last Friday convened by Chief Rabbi Eliezer Bakshi-Doron and Israel Meir Lau to protest the High Court decision appointing Brenner to the religious council.

Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Aryeh Gamiel (Shas) was quoted as having said during the meeting that seating a Reform representative on the religious council was tantamount to appointing a member of Hamas to the defense minister's bureau.

"If anyone thinks the Jewish world will remain quiet while the government authorizes the banning of Reform members on such grounds, he is mistaken," Regav warned.

- D.I.

DOV DOMBROVITZ, the chairman of the Netanya Religious Council, does not understand why a Reform Jew would want to sit on the council.

"How can a person participate in a body which contradicts his beliefs?" he asked.

"I contend that a person cannot provide the resources to supply the needs of those who believe in Halacha when he does not believe in Halacha himself."

Dombrovitz is not disturbed by the fact that the majority of the people for whom the religious councils have been established

(that is, the entire Jewish population) do not accept Halacha.

"There are 200 synagogues in Netanya and only one of them is Reform," he said. "I doubt that Reform Jews make up even one-tenth of 1 percent of the Jewish population of the country."

Dombrovitz stresses that he has nothing personal against Brenner. And he means it. The two are neighbors in a two-story building containing just four apartments. Brenner and Dombrovitz's wife are close friends.

But as far as he is concerned, Brenner belongs to a movement

that wants to insinuate itself into the council and destroy it from within. He believes she will try to implement decisions that contradict Halacha.

For example, he said, the Reform movement believes women may don tallit and tefillin when they pray.

"Tomorrow, we will propose spending money to renovate a ritual bath," Dombrovitz said. "Brenner will say we should use the money to buy tefillin for women, instead."

See BRENNER, Page 12



Leah Shadriel: the first woman to be appointed to a religious council

(Nissan Shorer)

An Orthodox forerunner

The three-year saga of Joyce Brenner's appointment to the Netanya Religious Council still memories for Leah Shadriel, the iconoclast who first broke the male Orthodox monopoly on the religious councils.

In 1988, after a battle that lasted more than two years and was publicized all over the world, Shadriel became the first woman ever appointed to a religious council. There was one key difference. Brenner is a Reform Jew. Shadriel is Orthodox. The rabbinate opposed Brenner because she is Reform. It opposed Shadriel because she is a woman.

Shadriel's story unfolded in the unlikelyst of places: the remote development town of Yeroham. In January 1986, the Yeroham Labor Party faction, which won the local election, nominated Shadriel to serve on the religious council.

According to Shadriel, opposition to her appointment originated not in the high spheres of religious

law but in the petty spheres of local politics.

But the issue snowballed. When the local council and the local rabbinate failed to reach agreement on Shadriel's appointment, the matter was referred to religious affairs minister Josef Burg. Burg tried to use bureaucratic technicalities to avoid a decision to bar Shadriel because he knew such a decision would not stand up in court.

In September 1986 the Association for Civil Rights in Israel went public with the dispute, turning Shadriel into an international figure. Then the Chief Rabbinate passed a ruling declaring a woman could not serve on a religious council.

Shadriel petitioned the High Court of Justice, which eventually ordered the religious affairs minister (by this point it was Ze'evulun Hammer) to authorize her appointment. He did so without further delay.

But things have changed since then, especially since the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, Shadriel said. Several years ago, when the High Court ordered interior minister Yitzhak Peretz to register Reform convert Shoshana Miller as a Jew, he resigned rather than obey the order.

Today, however, "if a minister does not want to carry out a ruling of the High Court, nothing happens," Shadriel said. (In fact, Religious Affairs Minister Eli Suissa was dismissed from his post this week after refusing to sign the notification of Brenner's appointment, and refusing to resign.) "Everyone knows the life of the Supreme Court justice [who makes that ruling] is in danger," continues Shadriel. "Listen to what the Orthodox permit themselves to say against the institutions of the state. It wasn't like that in 1988. I don't think things will work this time the way they did with me."

- D.I.

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ANALYSIS

Waiting for Albright

Dennis Ross's visit this week was a prelude to the eventual Mideast debut of Madeleine Albright. Who will gain and who will lose when the Secretary of State sets foot in the region? Jay Bushinsky writes

The enthusiasm discernible in Israel over US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's potential diplomatic debut here is eerily reminiscent of the glee that preceded the arrival of Henry Kissinger 24 years ago after the Yom Kippur War.

Many Israelis acted as if Kissinger's personal involvement in the dispute with Arab states symbolized their emergence as major players in the international arena. This attitude led Bernard Redmont, a prize-winning correspondent who covered Kissinger's negotiations with North Vietnam in the 1970s, to remark: "The Israelis don't know what they're in for."

The Wall Street Journal's "Notes for the Record" last Tuesday was equally acerbic in evaluating Albright's capacity for ruthless diplomacy, predicting that Albright may be quite tough with Israel.

She would likely press demands for a halt to settlement building in Jerusalem and the West Bank, which Washington seems to consider nearly as much an obstacle to peace as terror attacks.

"There can be no winks, no double standards, no double meanings: when it comes to security in the Middle East," Albright said in a recent speech to the National Press Club in Washington.

Officials close to Netanyahu believe that Albright may press for further implementation of the 1993 Oslo Accords, or more Israeli troop withdrawals in the West Bank, assuming that Arafat meets demands to crack down on terrorism.

There also are hopes that Albright will try to circumvent the excruciatingly incremental Oslo process, and get the parties to launch final-status talks, a senior official said.

Israel's main problem in dealing with Albright could turn out to be that Netanyahu has tougher ideas than the Clinton administration about what it means to fight terrorism, and Israel could end up being pushed to yield to Washington's view.

In that sense, the Palestinian Authority may gain more from Albright's visit than Israel. Her presence could instill a restored sense of confidence among Palestinians that the peace process



Dennis Ross and Yasser Arafat in Ramallah: Some observers compared Ross's mission with that of Richard Holbrooke in the Balkans: "a desperate attempt to patch up a peace agreement fatally flawed by reluctance to address fundamental issues." (AP)

is moving forward, without Arafat having to lose too much ground to Islamic extremists whose tacit support he needs to remain in control. Seasoned diplomatic observers contend that even before Albright's arrival, Israel has yielded

too much ground to the Americans in matters of security. They argue that CIA involvement in monitoring security talks with the Palestinians has weakened Israel's ability to make demands of the Palestinians on its own.

As Ma'ariv's Hemi Shalev put it, "Netanyahu's problem is that Albright effectively snatched from his hands the decision as to whether Arafat has fulfilled the role assigned to him."

Albright announces that her visit indeed will take place she will have granted Arafat a clean bill of health and will substantially reduce Netanyahu's ability to demand additional concessions from him."

ly declare war on terrorism by destroying its infrastructure, arresting some 230 Hamas activists and confiscating their weapons and ammunition. That may be more than Arafat can deliver.

Still, Arafat will have to go quite far in convincing the Americans that he is nipping terrorist initiatives in the bud, following up on Israeli intelligence tips and sharing his intelligence data with them, a senior source said.

Arafat may find it difficult to meet even US security demands. The Palestinian leader was reportedly curt this week when members of Ross's peacemaking team warned him that "one more terrorist attack could bring an end to the Oslo process."

"Don't ask me to act as an Israeli agent," Arafat was said to have replied.



US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright (AP)

prove unable to go back to the peace table at this time, Albright could end up putting off her trip to the Middle East for a matter of weeks or months. But barring the collapse of the peace process or the scrapping of the Oslo Accords, she will be here sooner or later.

The crowning moment of her stay undoubtedly would be a tripartite summit in which Netanyahu and Arafat shake hands and proclaim their determination to stay on the peace track.

Speculation circulating in informed quarters in Jordan centers on the possibility of an expanded summit under Albright's auspices, that would include King Hussein and Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak.

Such a meeting would be a major media event, but not necessarily a turning point in the convoluted history of Middle Eastern diplomacy.

'The moment Albright announces that her visit indeed will take place she will have granted Arafat a clean bill of health and will substantially reduce Netanyahu's ability to demand additional concessions from him.'

The comment led some observers to compare Ross's mission with that of Richard Holbrooke in the Balkans: "a desperate attempt to patch up a peace agreement fatally flawed by reluctance to address fundamental issues."

If Israel and the Palestinians

Mr. Davis goes to Washington

An American immigrant returns to Washington next week to take up the No. 2 post at the Israeli Embassy, Elli Wohlgeleitner speaks to Lenny Davis



Lenny Ben-David (né Davis): "It's a transformed loyalty from an American citizen of Jewish faith to an Israeli Jew of American birth."

For Lenny Ben-David, the archetypal Zionist idealist, the dream just keeps getting better.

On Sunday night he leaves Israel for Washington to take up his new position as deputy chief of mission at the Israeli Embassy, where he'll be second in command to Ambassador Eliyahu Ben-Elissar. But he won't need anyone to meet him at the airport to show him where to go and how to get around because Ben-David is heading home, the central character in the classic story of "local boy makes good."

He returns to the US, 15 years after having made aliyah to inaugurate the Israel office of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, where he had worked for 10 years and was known by his American name, Lenny Davis.

Working in Washington and Jerusalem was the perfect preparation for Ben-David's new undertaking — which he says he's taking on "with repudiation and love" — as it gave him 25 years' experience working on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"It is a huge responsibility, at a very critical time in the peace process," Ben-David says of his new job. "That peace process has to be explained — it is not necessarily understood," he is due to media reporting or the way the Arabs present their case. "Making

Israel's sacrifices understood and the dangers facing the country is going to be a challenge for me."

But on the other big issue he faces, Ben-David is more forthcoming. "The Israel-US Jewish relationship is at a critical stage. I fear there is a lack of understanding on both sides, regarding the concerns and the realities of the other faces."

He cites the example of a secular Israeli who told him that she had gone to a Reform synagogue in the US and felt like she was in a church; on the other side, there's the non-observant Jew in America who scratches his head over secular Israelis who spend Rosh Hashana at the beach.

"They can't understand the secular nature of Israelis," says Ben-David. "It reflects a lack of knowl-

edge of how the other half lives. Education, if I can be a part of that, is the way to help bridge some of that gap."

There is also the issue of Israel's political system and how American Jews perceive it.

'The Israel-US Jewish relationship is at a critical stage. I fear there is a lack of understanding on both sides.'

"American Jewish activists are very concerned about Israeli political reform. Whether as a direct result or not, last year's democratic election gave power to Orthodox and haredi Jews. It creates a problem: are you for democracy except when it 'goes your ox'?" If some body in this country doesn't like the growth of the right-wing conservative coalition in the United

States, can they challenge the way democracy works? Or proclaim that the USA isn't democratic? It requires an understanding of the political system here, but it also requires a very deep understanding of the nature of American Jewry."

THE PEOPLE who know him well say there is no one more qualified for the position in Washington. "When you talk about the attributes for the job, you have to know Israel well, you have to know Hebrew well, and you have to know yiddishkeit well," said David Clayman, Israel director of American Jewish Congress. "You also have to know the American political system, you have to know Washington well, and you have to know the American Jewish community well. There are very few who have all these attributes, and Lenny has them all."

BEN-DAVID recognizes that he's got an advantage over most Foreign Ministry officials sent overseas on diplomatic missions. "I don't have to learn the idioms, I don't have to learn the difference between Kansas City, Missouri, and Kansas City, Kansas. I know the number of senators and congressmen, I know The Hill switchboard number by heart, and I know where to look in The Washington Post for the Congressional schedule as well as where to look in that regard my job in Washington will be easier."

The one hitch, perhaps, is an issue that was raised among some American Jews when his nomination was first announced in May — the question of dual loyalty. "I never heard it raised in Israel, and I'm truly thankful for that," says Ben-David. "It's a sign of acceptance of olim — I credit Natan Shtronsky for paving the way to some degree. It's an understanding of the immigrant nature of the state," he explains.

"The point is, it's a transformed loyalty, from an American citizen of Jewish faith to an Israeli Jew of American birth."

It was there in the nation's capital, growing up the typical American kid cheering for his hometown baseball team — "I can still name everyone on the '65 Senators and

what position they played" — that his Jewish and Israeli — and embassy — consciousness took root.

"Growing up in Washington, DC, I went to school at the Hebrew Academy [where he met his wife at the age of 10] with no children of the diplomats, such as Ya'acov Herzog and Avraham Harman. I have a letter from Ya'acov Herzog, who was then the DCM [deputy chief of mission] — the position I'm taking — congratulating me on my Bar Mitzvah, and saying how well he was sure I was going to do, and how sorry he was that he couldn't attend. That's a letter that's going to be hanging in my office in Washington."

The Zionist idealism that drives him still today, Ben-David says, was "an engine that was installed in the vehicle by my parents. I grew up with legends of them sending stuff to the yeshiva before '48. My father was an engineer in the US Army, and he got permission in the '60s to go to Israel and to teach for a short period. So it's always been a Zionist family — my grandmother in Ottawa was the founder of Mizrachi in Canada."

After high school Ben-David spent a year learning in Yeshivat Kaeren B'Yavneh, where some of his classmates were killed in the War of Attrition on the Suez front. "I attended several funerals of boys from the yeshiva. As an American kid between high school and college, you can imagine the impact that such a thing had on me."

While in college at Yeshiva University, he started working at AIPAC as an intern, and it was there that he met Benjamin Netanyahu. Netanyahu asked Ben-David to help him set up an international conference on terrorism in Jerusalem. "He's very persuasive: he convinced me to go to Israel for a month."

So when his old friend phoned him earlier this year with a request, Ben-David took the call.

"Bibi's argument was basically 'We need you.' It's hard to turn down the prime minister of Israel when he says he needs you. Maybe there's a lack of Zionism [in society now] but indeed that's how I felt. Call it still part of the aliyah process — aliyah isn't only moving here physically but contributing to the State and to the Jewish people."

"Making aliyah was the ultimate dream of a Zionist Jew. And now, perhaps, this is the extension of that dream."

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Mission of goodwill — or mission impossible?

The visit by Israeli-Arab dignitaries to Syria this week might not have brought the two countries' governments closer together, but it can mark up one major achievement — uniting Molodet leader Rehavam Ze'evi and Meretz leader Yossi Sarid in condemnation of their behavior.

Among the statements which provoked the ire of the two politicians who rarely agree on any political issue was the call by MK Abdul Wahab Darawshe (Democratic Arab Party) to an enthusiastic audience in the Yarmuk refugee camp for the Palestinians to be given the full "right of return" — from the Golan Heights to Jerusalem. His encouragement to the residents of the camp to return to Palestine, if not you then your sons, and if not your sons, then your grandchildren, was raised for discussion in a special Knesset plenum debate on the issue on Wednesday.

Another DAP MK who received special attention here was Abdul Malih Dahamshe, who declared: "Palestine and Syria are one homeland. The Arab people will win by the sword; the victor will be won by the jihad of the Arab world." And his party colleague MK Taleb a-Sanaa reportedly said he hoped for a Syrian victory.

The delegation of 42 Israeli Arabs — including mayors, Knesset members and journalists — arrived in Damascus last Friday for a week-long visit at the invitation of the Syrian government and with the blessing of the Israeli authorities. The itinerary included a meeting with Syrian President Hafez Assad and Foreign Minister Farouk Shara. Some members of the group also met with Nawaf Hawameh and Ahmed Jibril, the heads of two major Palestinian terror groups opposed to the Oslo Accords and which do not recognize Israel's right to exist.

The Jerusalem Post interviewed MK Sallah Tarif (Labor) by phone from his Damascus hotel room on Wednesday morning, the day after he publicly stated: "I am in love with Assad" and "I was harmed by Shara." The terms "in love" and "harmed" were still relevant for Tarif the morning after. "It's true I used these words. The leadership is very warm and congenial. I was captivated by Assad's approach — his modesty. He acted as if he was one of us.

He was charming. We had this image of him as someone who is cold and distant," Tarif said.

Tarif, a Druse, has the rank of captain in the IDF. He is the first IDF officer to officially visit Syria and meet with the president.

Tarif rejected the possibility that Assad's behavior could be an act for the delegation's benefit.

"I've heard he behaves warmly like this with others," he said. "As for Shara, he is an intelligent and pleasant person, which is why I said what I did."

Tarif complained that Foreign Minister David Levy did not meet with the group before it left to explain Israel's stand on Syria and Lebanon.

Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav, who is responsible for Arab affairs, gave the visit his blessing and the participants were briefed by Foreign Ministry officials. Katsav later condemned the behavior of some of the delegates and said the MKs speaking against Israel in Syria have ruled themselves out as fitting leaders of the communities they are meant to represent. He also said they betrayed the trust the state had placed in them.

Tarif rejected the possibility that Assad was exploiting the delegation to play off the coalition and opposition and Israel and the Palestinians, although the president scolded both Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat during the meeting.

"The manipulation is more for domestic needs," Tarif said.

He later stressed, however, that Assad is interested in the peace camp in Israel and would like to see Labor leader Ehud Barak in power. The main message from Assad, according to Tarif, is that he feels he could make peace with Barak.

"He said it several times. The Syrians want to influence public opinion in Israel, throughout the peace camp."

"Assad said: 'We are now fighting for peace and this is the most important fight. It is one which will not have victims and we should unite to win this war.' This marks a tremendous change in the Syrian perspective towards a real conciliation with Israel, in my opinion."

Tarif pointedly brushed aside a question on whether he — as an MK and IDF officer — had asked about the fate of the Israeli MIAs

The Israeli Arab delegates who visited Syria this week made some surprising declarations. "I am in love with Assad," said Sallah Tarif. The Labor MK explains why in an interview with Liat Collins



Syrian president Hafez Assad (right) greets Labor MK Sallah Tarif: 'I was captivated by Assad's approach — his modesty.'

from the Battle of Sultan Yakoub.

TARIF SAID he had reservations about the behavior of some of the delegates on the trip. He is quick to point out that he boycotted the visit to the refugee camp at which Darawshe had made his call for Palestinians to flood Israel.

"I am sorry for such statements [as Darawshe's]," Tarif said. "They cannot help and are just offering illusions to those Palestinians in Syria. I preferred not to take part in the trip to the refugee camp for this reason. I can't be a party to these things since I support the Oslo Accords and I believe that everything will go according to the Oslo agreements and negotiations with the Palestinians."

Darawshe later rejected the criticism of him and told reporters he had not said anything in Syria that he had not said before in Israel.

Meretz leader Sarid rejected Darawshe's call for a Palestinian right of return.

"Each side can amuse itself with its dreams — dreams can't be censored — but practically speaking, the right of return cannot be realized. No serious, responsible person can consider allowing millions of refugees into Israel," he said.

Meanwhile, Molodet's Ze'evi called for the parliamentary

immunity of the MKs to be lifted so they could be prosecuted.

Tarif tried to play down the criticism the visit has elicited here.

"Unfortunately in Israel, the politicians and media are trying to deflect attention from the importance of this historic delegation — which was a gesture of goodwill by President Assad at the time our government was passing [preliminary reading of] the Golan Heights law, making strong statements on the settlements of the Golan; and when the peace process has come to a halt."

"What Darawshe said — as I understand it — was that they have the right of return. This is something which is on the agenda for the final arrangements with the Palestinians. I don't understand what the fuss is about, just because he said it enthusiastically to an audience of Palestinians?"

"You should make no mistake. The MKs speak like this in the Knesset too," Tarif said.

He said the whole Arab world knows that Israel is an established fact and negotiates with it.

"We are a mission of goodwill," Tarif said. "Israel, since [Yitzhak] Rabin, has been asking for gestures. To at least meet with the Arabs if not with the Jews. And he [Assad] has made the gesture while we caused the breakdown in the talks with Syria and [the] Palestinians."

Much of the criticism of the trip revolved on the way a delegation of Israeli citizens is being described in Syria as "Arabs from 1948."

"It bothers me that some are not identifying themselves as Israelis and are acting as if they have come from an anonymous country," Sarid said. "I would expect them to say there, in Damascus, that 'We are MKs from Israel — Israeli citizens — democratically elected and even if we have complaints, we are proud of our joint identity as Israeli Arabs.'"

Tarif said, however, in meetings with official state figures — including Assad and Shara — the Syrians have used the word "Israel."

"They definitely use the term," Tarif said. "The term 'Arabs of 1948' is used because the people here [in Syria] are still not ready for words like 'peace with Israel.' But he [Assad] is preparing the people for peace with Israel now."

He said the Syrian media are

giving the visit by the MKs extensive coverage.

"These messages are reaching the Syrian people and are at the top of the news agenda here," Tarif said.

THE VISIT to Damascus coincided with a scandal in Israel over an IDF major's statement that the army is recruiting Druse officers to stop them from joining Hamas or other terror groups. The officer was reprimanded and faces dismissal from the IDF for the statement, which was widely condemned.

Tarif, a leading member of the Druse community, had not heard the details of the story. He was shocked when he realized his statements about being in love with Assad followed hard on the heels of the officer's claim.

"What I said about Assad is a matter of realpolitik. He made a strong impression on me. This does not mean I'm not a good Israeli citizen," Tarif said. "Regarding the statement by the officer, I have often said unfortunately many still look on us strangely although we serve in the army, are loyal citizens and have paid the price. It is more than frustrating."

One of the two Druse IDF soldiers badly wounded this week in Lebanon comes from Tarif's own village, Julis.

Tarif did not see any irony in the fact that while the Israeli-Arab delegation was welcomed in Damascus, there were Katyusha attacks on northern Israel and IDF casualties and a fatality in Lebanon.

"The situation in Lebanon has been like this for years," he said, adding the solution is a comprehensive peace with Syria and Lebanon. "Our problem in Lebanon involves Syria. If you don't make an agreement with Syria you haven't done anything. Syria is strong and it is a power in the Arab world. But there is a willingness to make peace."

Assad told the delegation Syria wants peace but is keeping its options open.

Tarif stressed Syria's strength and said he had noted the support for Assad within the state.

"The message of peace is filtering down to the ordinary people, the market vendors and taxi drivers we meet. Everywhere we went, we were warmly received," Tarif said.

He conceded that the group is likely to have a very different welcome when it returns to Israel today.

What does Assad want?

By SEVE RODAN

At first glance, Syrian President Hafez Assad's invitation to a group of Israeli Arab and Druse seemed little more than fulfilling a need to find some cheerleaders south of the border.

But some Israeli analysts say it showed that Assad has learned something in the years of negotiating with Israel: that when he speaks to an Israeli, the entire country seems to listen.

"It's a very low-cost way for the Syrians to suggest that they are all keen on seeing the peace process move forward," says Martin Kramer, director of the Aviv University's Dayan Center for Middle East Studies. "It's a kind of contact with Israel, the Israelis of a different kind."

"There are things that Assad can't say in public, but only in private, and then he can always deny them. And whatever he tells Israeli Arabs to become a topic of Israeli debate, which doesn't usually happen when he speaks to the Americans, Kramer said.

Kramer, a leading researcher and author on the Arab world, distinguishes between the Israeli-Arab delegation's public exposure in Syria and how their private talks went. Syrian media didn't even use the word Israeli referring to the dozens of politicians, MKs, business people and journalists who visited Damascus this week, calling them only the "1948 Arabs." But privately, Assad was busy relaying messages to Israeli leaders. He replied to

Labor Party chairman MK Ehud Barak's commitment to continue the peace talks begun by prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Assad was said to have responded that he wasn't sure whether he could reach a settlement with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, but that he hoped he could do so with Barak.

"The assertion that he can't deal with Netanyahu but he can deal with Barak is important," Kramer says. "It's his first acknowledgment that he draws a distinction between Israelis."

Not long ago, Assad failed to distinguish between Labor and Likud. Barak and Netanyahu, viewing them as two sides of the same coin. Today, Kramer says, Assad wants to exploit the differences — if only to demonstrate to the Clinton administration that Syria can talk to Israelis. Assad's failure

to invite Jewish politicians for talks in 1996 under then-prime minister Shimon Peres, was blamed at the time for scuttling peace talks.

Kramer feels it is better for Syria to maintain a dialogue with Israel through the Jewish state's Arab population, than not at all. He hopes that such dialogue could at least prevent an outbreak of war.

"It is not altogether against Israel's interest to have this channel, given the lack of other channels," he says. "If Assad has reached the conclusion that no Israeli government can make concessions, then he would have to make preparations for war. If

he feels he can wait one year or so for a national unity government, he can wait."

The question is, however, what will Assad's next move be?

Will he follow up his meetings this week by inviting Jewish politicians who have publicly called for a full Israeli pullback from the Golan Heights? Will he sponsor a meeting of Jewish left-wing intellectuals with his choice of Syrian writers and artists?

Here Kramer has his doubts. Assad would regard extending an invitation to Israeli Jews as conceding to Jerusalem's demands for normalization before his conditions are met for a peace agreement, Kramer says.

"The problem with Assad is that he doesn't have a next step," Kramer continues. "What he did now does not involve a concession. The problem with Assad is that he doesn't widen the circle."

Meeting with Israeli-Arabs "is a very low-cost way for the Syrians to suggest that they are still keen on seeing the peace process move forward."

—Martin Kramer

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Bitter choices: Israel's chemical dilemma

Should Israel join the 97 countries that have already ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention — and open its facilities for inspection?
Steve Rodan reports

January 1993: It might have been winter in Paris, but inside the huge convention hall it was the spring of optimism for then-foreign minister Shimon Peres as he participated in the festive signing of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

After initial hesitation, Israel agreed to sign and over the next few months government officials were optimistic that the peace process would give rise to a Middle East ready to discuss the elimination of chemical and eventually of all nonconventional weapons.

Today, more than four years later, the opposite has occurred. The peace process has ground to a halt and Israel's Arab neighbors are amassing chemical weapons and ballistic missiles at a pace that would indicate an effort to counter Israel's purported nuclear arsenal.

Talk about bad timing. Now Israel is being asked to ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) that would result in full reporting of any capability as well as being open to inspections of secret facilities.

The question is should Israel ratify and when? The government is torn between ratification and the possible exposure of its non-conventional arsenal to Arab enemies or refusing to ratify and being subjected to economic sanctions.

"It's one of the most important strategic debates this country has seen in many years," a senior government source says.

"Israel is in a dilemma and any decision it makes will have serious repercussions." Time is short. The CWC took effect on April 29 and so far 97 countries have rat-

fied the treaty. Some officials say Israel has only weeks to do the same before it comes up against international pressure.

As a result, the issue is being feverishly discussed in the Defense Ministry and within the ministerial committee on security.

Israeli officials say it is clear that this will be the only country in the Levant ratifying the treaty. Most Arab countries refuse to sign the CWC until Israel signs the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. This includes Egypt and Syria, both of which have large chemical weapons arsenals. Iran has signed the treaty, which has been ratified in parliament, but Teheran has not delivered the ratification notice to the United Nations.

"The issues are security and deterrence," says Gerald Steinberg, director of the Arms Control and Proliferation Research Program at Bar-Ilan University's Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies. "The question is whether Israel gets deterrent value from ambiguity on chemical weapons. The second issue is the impact on the chemical industry. Countries that don't sign will pay a large penalty if the requirements of the treaty are enforced."

The CWC is regarded as the most intrusive and complex treaty ever enacted. The goal of the convention is to eliminate chemical weapons by the year 2007. Each of the signatories pledges to begin reporting on its past and current chemical weapons stockpiles and facilities within 30 days and to start destroying them within 90 days.

Under the treaty, a country can challenge the veracity of the information given by another sig-



Chemical battlefield: IDF soldiers train for the worst.

(Sammy Aviasan)

natory. So, a North African nation that has ratified the treaty can demand an inspection of Israel's facilities, accusing them of harboring unreported chemical weapons.

The most likely target is the Nuclear Research Center at Dimona.

The only way a country can block such an inspection is to obtain a majority of the executive body of the Organization of the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. The body must be convinced that the request is frivolous and that such a facility could not possibly contain chemical weapons. A country demanding such an inspection cannot include its representatives on the multinational team that would visit the site.

For Israeli officials, the ramifications

of such a convention are dizzying. Israel has for decades resisted international pressure to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and for inspections of the

would refuse to sign the CWC and could keep all of their weapons. But the two or three countries that ratify the treaty would use it solely to get into our facilities and

The CWC is regarded as the most intrusive and complex treaty ever enacted. The goal of the convention is to eliminate chemical weapons by the year 2007.

Dimona facility. Officials cannot fathom agreeing to any outside examination of the site.

"Ratifying the CWC would give the Arabs an immediate advantage," a government expert says. "Most of the Arab countries

learn everything that they've been dying to know about us."

The question now regards tactics. The ministerial committee is itself divided on the issue. In a meeting on July 9, National Infrastructure Minister Ariel

Sharon warned against ratifying the CWC, saying the move would endanger Israel. Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai suggested that Israel ratify the agreement and rely on US support in interpreting the treaty.

At one point, according to a source who monitored the meeting, Sharon accused Mordechai of being "too close to the Americans." Mordechai denied this, saying, "I am operating strictly in an objective manner. Our relations with the Americans are excellent. I believe it is good that the US is on our side."

Neither Mordechai nor Sharon would discuss his position on the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The discussions in the government on whether to recommend ratification of the CWC is being chaired by David Ivry, special adviser to Mordechai and head of the Committee on Arms Control.

Ivry's committee has not drafted any recommendations but the chairman is said to feel that Israel will eventually have to ratify the treaty. Ivry has refused to be interviewed on the subject.

A key issue is what conclusions the Arabs will draw from their knowledge of any Israeli chemical weapons program. Some experts argue that they are highly interested in Israel's chemical weapons capability precisely because they themselves are producing such weapons.

"The problem is that fulfilling these conditions of the convention will cause an important element of Israel's deterrent equation to disappear," Reuven Pedazur, director of the Galili Center for Strategy and National Defense, says. "This will be especially grave if the Arab states maintain their refusal to join the treaty. So, a situation will be created whereby most of the countries in the region, except for Israel, will have chemical weapons."

Others on the committee argue that exposure of Israel's chemical weapons arsenal will lead its Arab enemies to believe that Israel will use its purported nuclear weapons to retaliate against any chemical weapons attack. This, they argue,

will serve as an even greater deterrent to an Arab chemical weapons attack.

Avner Cohen, senior fellow at the US Institute of Peace who specializes in nuclear proliferation and arms control, says the most important question is whether Israeli security requires chemical weapons.

"I think the unequivocal answer is no," Cohen says. "The military utility of chemical weapons was never demonstrated in the battlefield in the first place and I cannot see any conceivable situation in which Israel would be persuaded to use chemical weapons."

"The deterrent value of chemical weapons for Israel, given its nuclear image, is very marginal," Cohen disagrees with Israeli defense experts who argue that exposing an absence of chemical weapons would actually encourage Arab states to launch a first strike or chemically-tipped ballistic missiles. He says the probability of a first use of Syrian chemical weapons against Israel is low, with Damascus deterred by Israel's purported nuclear arsenal.

The argument to ratify the treaty is primarily financial. One of the penalties if refusal to join the CWC is that the offending country will be barred from the supply of raw material used in the pharmaceutical and petrochemical industry. This would hurt Israel's rapidly growing high-technology industry.

And when should Israel ratify the treaty?

Some officials argue that ratification should come within the next few months or even weeks so Israel can join the verification committees of the CWC.

"If you want to be influential, then you have to be the first," an official says. "The longer you wait the more marginal you become." Other officials, however, have argued that Israel should wait as long as possible until ratifying the treaty. Then, Israel will have determined whether it will indeed ratify the treaty and open its facilities to inspection and whether sanctions will be applied to those which have not ratified, such as Syria and Egypt.

"Some think that it is an urgency in making a decision," Steinberg says. "I think we should wait a few months and see whether Iran ratifies and we'll see the degree to which it honors the convention." At a meeting of the ministerial committee on July 16, several ministers advised that Israel ratify the treaty but reserve the right to bolt the convention if its Arab neighbors do not join CWC.

The debate is connected to the US position on Israeli ratification. Some officials here maintained that the Clinton administration will demonstrate understanding of Israel's position, the way it did regarding the 1995 debate over the extension of the NPT. Other officials said President Bill Clinton has been such an enthusiastic supporter of the CWC that he will expect Israel to ratify the convention in the coming months.

Eliot Cohen, a consultant to the US Defense Department and a professor at John Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, says Congress will probably understand Israel's hesitancy to ratify the CWC. "Israel might well get a sympathetic hearing, particularly if the Arab states refuse to go along with it [the CWC]," he says.

Cohen agrees. "As of now, I do not see signs of US interest in bringing this issue to the point of confrontation and pressure," he says.

"It is unlikely that the president would do something in the present political context. It is in other circumstances — such as the deterioration of US-Israeli relations — that this might be an issue."

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MIDDLE ISRAEL

Khatami's Silk Road



By AMOTZ ASA-EL

At first glance it seemed to epitomize Cyrus the Great's heritage.

After all, it would not have been unlike the spirit of that worldly Persian emperor — whose domains stretched from the Aegean Sea to the Indian Ocean — to assemble an assortment of presidents, princes and diplomats for a pretentious, colorful and much-heralded inauguration ceremony of a trans-Asian railway line.

That route — launched last year between Iran and gas-rich Turkmenistan and dubbed "Pride" by Tehran's ayatollahs — was part of a broader effort to circumvent a Western-dominated world economy through an alternative network of regional, predominantly Moslem, trading partners.

Yet one year later, as Mohammed Khatami this week assumed its presidency, Iran remained a victim of its self-inflicted isolation. In fact, to effectively undo the damage wrought on his countrymen by the 1979 revolution, Khatami would do

well to derive inspiration from the indelible imprint which Cyrus left on his nation's history.

The other ayatollahs, in promoting various intra-Asian and pan-Moslem economic schemes, including the utterly unworkable proposition of a Moslem common market, often claimed to resurrect the legendary Silk Road.

In reality, however, behind that medieval, intercontinental trade route lurked commercial, cultural and political attitudes which were the very antitheses of those harbored by Khatami's clerical predecessors, colleagues and supervisors.

And the same was true of Cyrus, who not only restored Jerusalem and its Temple to the Jews, but also repaired the temples of his newly conquered Babylonia and left intact its native bureaucracy.

Undoubtedly, the Persian emperor's multicultural outlook played a crucial role in his impressive, 29-year reign over a vast, tri-continental empire where people, ideas and goods moved relatively freely.

In fact, some two-and-a-half millennia later, that ancestor of today's Iranians still looms tall as a pioneer of religious tolerance and political sobriety.

Similar circumstances of freedom and tolerance produced the Silk Road.

Though commercial traffic already flowed along Asia's caravan routes in antiquity, carrying

gold eastward and silk westward, there is no contemporary evidence of actual encounters between Roman and Chinese people. After all, the terrain that lay between the two empires would have entailed an arduous journey amid a myriad of often hostile tribes through deserts as deadly as the Takla Makan — where today China holds nuclear tests — and along snow-capped mountains as immense as the outer Himalayas.

Under such punishing conditions, goods would proceed from region to region through dozens of intermediaries, constantly increasing in price along the way. Florentine noblemen may have sat on Persian rugs, played with Siamese ivory chess pieces, or worn Chinese silk gowns without ever having seen an actual, or even a depicted, person from the Far East.

All that changed with Marco Polo's ground-breaking journeys, which finally led a European to the Far East and back. However, the Italian adventurer's odyssey benefited from the benevolence of Asian rulers (the Mongols) who, like Cyrus, encouraged commerce, protected traders, and tolerated religious diversity.

So pluralistic were those patrons of the Silk Road that in their court at Karakoram, north of the Great Wall, they permanently accommodated Christian, Moslem and Buddhist priests, and in Persia they

appointed a Jewish doctor, Rashid a-Din Fazlala, as chief minister.

Set against this backdrop, it was sad to hear Khatami's predecessors habitually claiming to resurrect the Silk Road, which they apparently view as a technical term which merely implies a physical East-West axis.

In reality, revolutionary Iran's economics, along with its notorious cultural intolerance, starkly contrasted with the real Silk Road's raison d'être.

Indeed, nearly two decades after its rise to power, Iran's Islamic regime is an economic basket case. Though it has in recent years backtracked from some of Khomeini's disastrous nationalization schemes, it has failed colossal to deliver on the promises of prosperity. On the contrary; after having registered annual growth rates of 8 to 14 percent and even 16% (in 1972) during the shah's era, the Iranian economy has consistently diminished under the Islamists.

Despite its leaders' frequent lip service to "diversification," Iran's livelihood remains shackled to its oil and gas deposits, a deformed structure which abandons the economy to the whims of global commodity markets. Infrastructure development, despite that railway line, has all but ground to a halt; due to a birth rate which at 4% per annum is among the world's highest, the per-capita telephone ratio

in fact declined to a mere four instruments per 100 people. Even so, Teheran spends 14% of its domestic product on defense and only 4% on education, which helps explain why Iran remains one of the world's most illiterate societies.

It is these social and economic predicaments, not the Great or Small Satans, which ought to boggle Khatami's mind as he sets out to chart a new course for the Persian people. The new Iranian leader must understand that as heir to those who have shed so many innocents' blood and spread so much bigotry across the Middle East and far beyond it, Allah himself would expect him to at least begin repairing the 1979 revolution's damage.

If he is serious about reestablishing his country's affairs, Khatami would do well to ask himself not only how many Silk Road segments Teheran reconstructs but how many Iranians will actually get to travel them and thus be exposed to norms, beliefs and lifestyles which are anathema to those of ayatollahs like Ali Khomeini but indispensable for viable global commerce.

To generate prosperity at home and reconciliation abroad, Khatami must walk in the footsteps of Cyrus the Great's cosmopolitanism and tolerance.

Without such an attitudinal about-face, Iran's quest for a resurrected Silk Road will remain little more than wishful thinking.

Dry Bones



SHABBAT SHALOM



By SHLOMO RISKIN

"For the Eternal your God is merciful God; He will not fail you, nor destroy you, nor ever forget the covenant with your fathers." (Deut. 4:31)

Every day visitors arrive at the Western Wall. Responses vary: Imagining the fire that destroyed the Temple in 70 CE, one visitor may wail. But another claps his hands and leaps for joy, thrilled to be standing next to such a holy site! Yet if the same person weeps one moment and dances the next, we'd question his emotional stability.

Isn't this description analogous to the readings of the haftara (Sabbath readings of the Prophets) of this week's portion of *V'El'hanan*, and of last week's portion of *Devarim*, selections that seemingly present antithetically different attitudes toward the destruction? And remember that our Sages ordained that each be read with reference to the destruction of the Holy Temple, the first on the Sabbath prior to Tisha Be'Av and the second on the Sabbath following Tisha Be'Av.

Last week, *Shabbat Hazon* (vision) described one of the bleakest visions a prophet ever envisioned: "Your country is desolate; your cities are burned with fire; strangers devour your land in your presence, and it is desolate" (Isaiah 8:6).

But when we get to the haftara read this week on *Shabbat Nahamu* (comfort) barely four days after we mourned the loss of the Temple and Jerusalem, the message is a powerful surge of faith: "O thou that brings good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain. O thou that brings good tidings to Jerusalem. Lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid..." (Isaiah 40:9).

That one prophet could describe two such different perceptions is not impossible. The shock we experience results not so much from the messages themselves, but rather from the command to identify with each of them in response to Tisha Be'Av.

A fascinating glimpse into the minds of the Talmudic Sages may be found in one of the last passages of the Babylonian Talmud, *Maikot* 24. Rabbi Akiva and the other Sages are walking around the Temple Mount area after the destruction of our Sanctuary and see foxes emerging from the place of the Holy of Holies... just as had been foretold.

The Sages weep — and Rabbi Akiva laughs. His laughter, he explains, is an expression of faith. After all, the same prophetic vision which foresaw the destruction and the foxes also foresaw rebuilding. And the Sages respond to R. Akiva: "You have comforted us." They have added laughter to their tears.

A subtle expression of this idea is to be found in the incident of the Daughters of Zelophehad, as commented upon by the Midrash *Yalkut Shimoni* and expanded upon in our Torah portion.

Several weeks back, in the portion of Pinhas, the Torah described five sisters whose father had died, leaving no male heirs. The assumption was that daughters were not entitled to an

Faith above all

Parshat V'El'hanan

inheritance in the land of Israel, and those women thought this to be grossly unfair. "Why should the name of our father be done away from among his family because he had no son? Give unto us a possession among the brethren of our father."

Moses brings their case before God, and God declares that the "daughters of Zelophehad speak right" (*kain b'nei Zelophehad*). "You shall surely give them a possession of an inheritance..." (Num. 27: 3-7). Our rabbinic tradition praises these women, referring to them as *tzadikot*, righteous. Weren't they merely looking out for their own personal needs? asks the Yalkut Shimoni. By what yardstick are they described as righteous?

We must remember the context. In the very same portion, and almost as its introduction, the nation emerged from a plague which claimed 24,000 lives as a result of idolatry and cohabiting with Moabite women.

And in the portion before that, Korah had initiated his rebellion in the wake of the tragic and heinous sin of the spies, their negative report about Israel dooming them to extinction in the desert. The well of Miriam had dried up, the dream of entering the Promised Land had been dashed against the dry rocks of despair.

Undoubtedly the overwhelming majority of Israelites saw the bright future as having ended before it began; true, an opportunity for redemption had beckoned, but it had become sun-dried and wind-tossed in a cruel desert of destruction. If the majority of Jews had not lost their faith in the Promised Land, Korah would never have attempted a rebellion.

From their perspective, the request/demand of the daughters of Zelophehad was a turning point. Nobody forced them to speak up.

Just as today, petitioning the Supreme Court is the right of every individual, but not everyone is willing to invest the time and money. It must have required almost superhuman effort for five women to get past the 70 elders, to overcome the massive bureaucracy which one might imagine characterized even the desert judicial structure, and manage to bring their case to the attention of Moses himself.

On seeing their cause to its end, they went far beyond correcting an inequity in the law. They taught the nation a lesson of faith. Despite the endless calamities, these women apparently were convinced that one day they — or their children, or their children's children — would indeed divide up the land.

Where did these daughters of Zelophehad find their faith? Our weekly portion contains one possible answer: "You will perish from off the land... It will be difficult for you — and all those (blessings) will find you... because [God] will never forget His covenant with your fathers..." (Deut. 4:26)

Current prospects in the "desert" of exile may seem dim, but nothing will destroy the fact that the covenant remains eternally valid.

Shabbat Shalom

A VIEW FROM NOV



By MOSHE KOHN

There are still many people who think the term "the people of the book" is a generic one designating the Jews as a bookish people.

We are. But it is also true that probably never before has such a large portion of the Jewish people been so Jewishly illiterate, or perhaps rather a-literate, able to read but not reading its own literature and other literature of lasting value. This applies not only to Diaspora Jewry but also to Israelis, and not only to literacy in Hebrew but also in the vernaculars of the various diasporas.

Time was when even an *am ha'aretz*, an otherwise unknowledgeable "peasant," could at least read — even if he did not really understand much of what he read — the voweled prayers in the *Siddur* and the Book of Psalms, and follow the Shabbat Torah portion in the *Humash* (Pentateuch). His equally untutored wife could read the *Tekhnit* (Book of Entreaties) and the *Tzema Ur'enna* (the embellished Yiddish-Hebrew recasting of the Tanach).

This is probably the type of Jew the late Third Aliya Mappam leader, Ya'acov Hazan, saw in his mind's eye when he made his mordant comment about the younger generations of Jewishly ignorant and deraconated Israeli Jews. Hazan, who, like most of the ultra-secularists of his generation, had had a richly Jewish upbringing, commented: "We [the early secular Zionist pioneers] came here to create a generation of *apikorsim* [knowledge-

The Book and the chewing-gum

able 'heretics' thinking Jewishly and adapting the Jewish calendaric rhythm]. But we didn't even succeed in creating a generation of *amratzim* [ignoramuses, but living and thinking Jewishly to the best of their ability]."

On the other hand, of course, it is estimated that never before have so many Jews engaged in Jewish studies — in yeshivot and the additional large variety of frameworks for Jewish learning.

BE THAT as it may, the coinage of "the People of the Book" was not complimenting the Jews.

He was Mohammed, speaking in Allah's name of the Jews and the Christians, the people of the Book, the Bible. But the Koran tells us that the Torah and the New Testament, true in themselves, were but preludes to the Koran. Hence, he granted Jews and Christians a status in Islam somewhat better than that he accorded other "unbelievers" or infidels but not equal to that of Moslems.

And the Koran (Sura 29) teaches: "Be courteous when you argue with the People of the Book, deal with those among them who have dealt wrongfully with you. Say: 'We believe in what has been revealed to us and to you. Our God and your God is one. To Him we are self-surrendered [muslimim]' " (my composite of translations by N.J. Dawood, Penguin, 1990, and J.M. Rodwell, Everyman's Library, 1909).

Ghanem M. Nuseibeh, president of the Middle East Students' Union in the United Kingdom, cites this passage (slightly truncated) in a letter chiding me for what he calls my "exclusive sectarianism" in my column of August 1, in which I discussed the canards and slanders being disseminated by some Arab spokespersons and agencies, especially those of the Palestinian Authority. In light of that passage, Nuseibeh asks how I could suggest that "the Prophet Mohammed [could] declare war against... Jews or Christians." I suggested no such thing. But the history

books are quite explicit about Mohammed's and many later Arab and other Moslem wars against Jews and Christians (and others).

Furthermore, the Koran itself suggests it. For example, in addition to the above admonition about courtesy, it also tells us (Sura 3): "He that chooses a religion other than Islam — it will not be accepted from him and in the world to come he will be one of the lost... Had the People of the Book accepted the Faith [Islam], it would surely have been better for them. Some are true believers, but most of them are evildoers."

And "Believers, take neither Jews nor Christians for your friends... Do not seek the friendship of the infidels and those who were given the Book before you..." (Sura 5).

Nuseibeh also asserts that Islam "came only to complement the earlier revelations, emphasizing that it was not going to cancel out existing Abrahamic religions."

The Koran is — how shall I say it? — ambiguous on this. It says in Allah's name (Suras 2 and 5): "To Moses We gave the Book and after him We sent other apostles. We gave Jesus the son of Mary proofs of his mission... Will you then scorn each apostle whose message does not suit your fancies, charging some with imposture and slaying others?... God has cursed [those who reject Islam] for their unbelief. And now that a Book [the Koran] confirming their own has come to them from God, they deny it... God's curse be upon the infidels!... An ignominious punishment awaits the unbelievers..." [T]o you [Mohammed and his followers] We have revealed the Book with the truth."

NUSEIBEH CHARGES that I "make Arab-Jewish rapprochement appear impossible."

In saying that without refuting any of my charges concerning the canards and slanders of Arab spokespersons.

Nuseibeh implies that Arabs are incapable of leaving their fantasy world and settling in the real world. He also implies that those who

wish to live in peace with Arabs must accept this.

Such racism!

That rapprochement, which exists to some degree on the personal level, will become even more widespread on that level and come into being on the national political level only when Arab and other ostensible Arab peace-makers enter the real world and muster the courage and the forces to unflinchingly crush the canards of the Jews in their camp.

THIS PENCHANT of Arab spokesmen for avoiding reality is supported by many journalists.

For example: On July 28 *Washington Post* correspondent Barton Gellman published a feature story datelined Gaza about the Palestine Authority canard that the Jews sold chewing-gum to Arabs spiked with ingredients that would sterilize them.

He called this falsehood "one among many recent signs that after months of stagnation in peace talks, the process of accommodation is falling into decay." But he needed "even-handedness," so he promptly added: "Israel, too, devotes substantial efforts these days to discrediting its ostensible negotiating partner." How? By means of government announcements publicizing PA-sponsored or -condoned canards and numerous violations of the Oslo Accords.

There you have it: Arafatian blood libels are equal to Israeli announcements about deliberate PA violations of written agreements.

The *Washington Post* had that Israeli chewing-gum checked by chemists and other experts. Why didn't it similarly authenticate or refute that list of violations?

(Thanks to CAMERA/Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America.)

E-mail comments to: moshe@post.co.il. Please include home address.

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Hugo Boss AG: Soldiers of fortune

By ROBIN GIVHAN

The German clothing factory that eventually became the international menswear powerhouse Hugo Boss AG manufactured Nazi uniforms during World War II and most likely did so using slave labor.

The revelation appeared in the latest issue of the Austrian current affairs magazine *Profil*. A statement from Hugo Boss AG, which is based in Metzingen, Germany, details and confirms much of the account.

"The clothing factory founded by Mr. Hugo Boss manufactured work clothes and, we think, SS uniforms as well... So far, we have no archives in the company, and we're currently trying to find what was going on," says Monika Steilen, spokeswoman for Hugo Boss AG. "This is the first time we have heard of the history."

Boss founded his family-owned garment business in 1923. The company struggled for a time, fell into bankruptcy and then, during the war, made the uniforms worn

by the German SS, storm troopers, Wehrmacht, and Hitler Youth. It is likely that the factory was manned by forced labor, including concentration camp prisoners and prisoners of war.

Following the war, according to *Profil*, Boss was ostracized as an "opportunist of the Third Reich," stripped of his voting rights, and fined 80,000 marks (approx. NIS 160,000).

Over time, the family business was passed from sons to grandsons.

In 1953, it produced its first men's suits. By the early 1970s, it was beginning its transformation into a manufacturer of pricey and fashionable men's power suits and sportswear. In 1985, the company went public in Germany. Now, the majority of stock is held by the Italian fashion conglomerate Marzotto Group. No family members are currently involved in the company, Steilen says.

Hugo Boss AG, with a turnover of approximately \$535 million a year, regularly unveils its

menswear collection in New York under the auspices of 7th or Sixth.

"We don't close our eyes and say we don't want to know anything about it," Steilen says. "What can we do? We try to get a lot of information. We cannot do anything more." The company

Being a manufacturer of Nazi uniforms, as opposed to airplane parts or rivets, packs a larger emotional punch.

The company's straightforward approach in dealing with the disclosure should serve it well, observes Frank Mankiewicz, vice-chairman of Hill & Knowlton, a powerhouse public relations firm adept at crisis management. "It's been 50 years. The original liability is gone. Assuming the story is true, you concede it," Mankiewicz says.

fly even faster, the Boss story had been kept under wraps. The industry is slowly absorbing the news and wondering about the possible effect on the company's image and business fortunes.

How should the industry react to such a revelation? "It's a traumatizing question," says Stan Herman, president of the Council of Fashion Designers of America. "I live my life with one of the greatest commanders in the world and the Nazi party, and Wagner was Hitler's favorite composer. As a Jew, there's constantly a conundrum there."

The company's straightforward approach in dealing with the disclosure should serve it well, observes Frank Mankiewicz, vice-chairman of Hill & Knowlton, a powerhouse public relations firm adept at crisis management. "It's been 50 years. The original liability is gone. Assuming the story is true, you concede it," Mankiewicz says.

Such bombshells about German companies that have been in operation since the war are not unusual. BMW used slave labor to repair airplane engines, says Steven Luckert, historian and a curator at the Holocaust Memorial Museum. "Certainly hundreds of German firms were involved in producing material for the war effort," he says.

And as working-class Germans went off to fight, a labor shortage developed. Businessmen could and did turn to concentration camps for workers. Says Luckert: "The laborers weren't forced on them." Still, being a manufacturer of Nazi uniforms, as opposed to airplane parts or rivets, packs a larger emotional punch. "Even looking at some of those uniforms, because of what they were associated with, fills a lot of people with dread and terror," Luckert says. Even today, the uniform "symbolizes what the Nazis stood for - terror, persecution, the power of the state."

Aside from adding a chapter to the history books, Luckert says there is the possibility of compensation. "Beginning in the 1950s, there have been a number of former concentration camp inmates who began filing suits against companies to be reimbursed for their labor," he notes. Some of those suits resulted in monetary settlements. (AP)

GRAPEVINE

The Tax Man Cometh

By GREER FAY CASMAN

None it seems, is entitled to kid-glove treatment from income-tax investigators. David Broza, the latest in the list of celebrities who would rather stay out of the limelight of alleged tax evasion, was unceremoniously dragged out of bed at 6 a.m. two weeks ago when income-tax investigators hauled him in for questioning. Broza, who had volunteered to give a series of concerts for incapacitated IDF veterans as well as soldiers in the field, was able to keep one of his commitments in Herzliya under the supervision of his investigators but had to cancel out on three days in Lebanon. Some of the other celebrities who have received unwelcome attention from the income tax authorities in recent months include soccer star Eli Ohana, whose debut as a television sportscaster was disrupted as a result comedian Eli Yatzpan; and singer/composer Meir Ariel. Rumor has it that many of the rich and the famous are in line for a rude awakening.



Japanese ambassador Haruhiko Shibusawa and his wife, Sachiko.

band-to-be as "an animal person." Friends from Israel and abroad who want to send greetings to be read out at the wedding can make use of the web and address their good wishes to <http://www.neot-kedumim.org.il>

NOW IT'S definite. Nissim Mishal is the new host of Channel 1's *Popolitica*. The only barrier to his succeeding Dan Margalit was his unwillingness to give up his hard-hitting *Conference Call* interview program. That matter has been resolved, and Mishal will now anchor both programs. The *Popolitica* format will remain much as it was under Margalit, the difference being that there will be a regular satirical slot and a larger turnover of guest journalists on the panel.

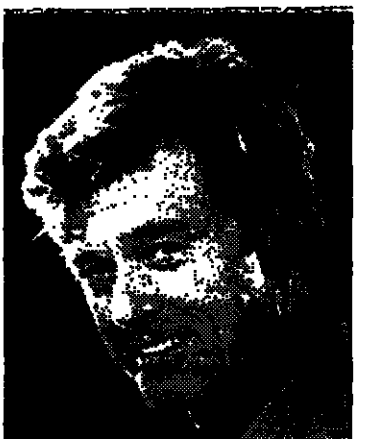


Betty Klein is taking her song to Slovakia.

AMERICAN-born folksinger Betty Klein, who lives in Jerusalem but sings all over the world, will be performing this Sunday in Presov, Slovakia, at a special ceremony marking the rededication, on its 100th anniversary, of the Presov synagogue. There are only 25 Jews left in Presov, one of whom is Klein's cousin Magda Weisz, an Auschwitz survivor who returned to her home town after the Second World War and settled in the house next to the synagogue. Presov Jewish community chairman Dezider Landa visualized the rededication as an opportunity for a reunion of Presov expatriates and their descendants and sent invitations to them in all the lands of their dispersion, most notably Israel, the US, Canada and Australia.

For Klein, it will be an especially poignant reunion. Her grandfather, a native of Presov, emigrated to the *goldene medina* with a Torah scroll from Slovakia and established the Ohav Zedek synagogue in Yonkers, New York. Many of the founding congregants, some of whom were relatives, were people who had been active in the Presov synagogue. Their progeny, with whom Klein grew up, continue to be active in Ohav Zedek and some, like Klein, have made the nostalgic journey back to Presov.

A FREQUENT visitor to exhibition openings at Haifa's Tikotin Museum of Japanese Art, the Japanese ambassador Haruhiko Shibusawa, who is about to wind up his term of duty, promised to stay in touch. Shibusawa and his wife Sachiko, were among some 500 people who attended the opening last Saturday night of the Japanese paper dolls exhibition by Kimiyo Furukawa and wood prints by Fumio Kitakida. The 83-year-old Furukawa said that it was an emotional experience for her - and for them - to be in Israel.



Robert Redford: Hot property, in more ways than one

HE SEEMS to have been forecasting the weather for so long - first on Channel 1 and then on Channel 2 - that it's difficult to believe that Danny Roup is barely thirty-something. He celebrated his 32nd birthday this week on, of all days, Tisha Be'Av.

THOUGH given very short notice of the impending arrival of a VIP group - headed by none other than Bill and Hillary Clinton - Eddy Ben-Naim, proprietor of Washington's Tel Aviv restaurant, was ready and waiting when the presidential party arrived. The Clintons and their entourage feasted on freshly baked pitot, humous, falafel, babaganoush, tabouli, Moroccan cigars, fish in Moroccan sauce, and several other delicacies familiar to the Israeli palate. Their appetites were good and healthy - and yes, they did leave a generous tip.

THE TRANSITION from the small screen to the silver screen is a boost not only for an actor's ego but also for his income. Will Smith, best known to Israeli viewers as *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*, has moved up in the world since making the highly acclaimed sci-fi comedy film *Men in Black* with Tommy Lee Jones and now commands not less than \$20 million for a movie. Compared to most Hollywood stars, that's still small potatoes. We should all be so unlucky.

ACTOR/producer Robert Redford has acquired 4 percent of the stock in the Los Angeles-based National Mercantile Corp. Bank through the investment fund of his production company. Since the bank specializes in loans to the entertainment industry, the natural question is whether Redford will be using personal clout to secure a loan for his next movie.

BRENNER

Continued from Page 7

Earlier in the week, Dombrovitz predicted correctly that religious affairs minister Eli Suissa would refuse to sign the Government Gazette notification that Brenner had been appointed to the council. The next step, he said, would be passage of a new law stipulating that "only someone interested in supplying religious services in accordance with the Halacha as it has been practiced for generations and who lives in

accordance with the Halacha may be a member of a religious council."

On Wednesday, Suissa, who was dismissed from his post for refusing to sign the notification, confirmed that during the summer recess the Knesset would pass such legislation to "nip the Reform campaign in the bud."

In fact, unless the Knesset passes a law quickly, Reform representatives will soon be appointed to the religious councils in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa and Kiryat Tivon. Dombrovitz said the standoff

between the High Court and the rabbinic court seating Reform Jews on the religious councils is one of the most serious in the history of the state, precisely because it has to do with the Reform Movement.

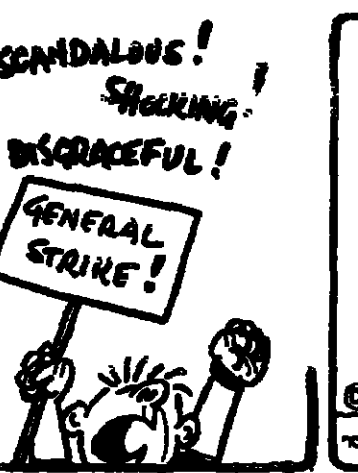
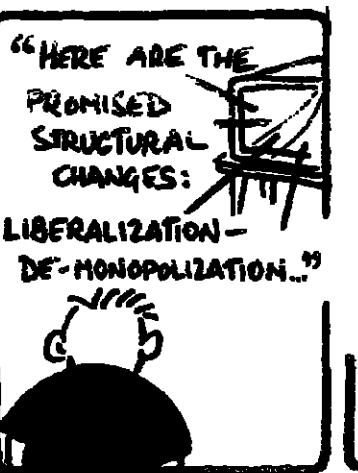
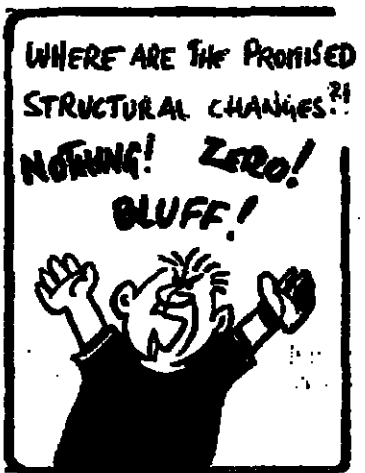
That is not surprising, given one of Brenner's key aims as a member of the Netanya Religious Council.

"The question is whether Israel can be a pluralistic society with different approaches to advancing Judaism," she said. "We may differ on how to go about this, but the point is to offer Israeli youth a more knowledgeable choice."

Today, our secular youngsters are not getting a good Jewish education. We want to change that."

For people like Shilush and Dombrovitz, there is no such thing as "choice." The Reform Movement can only deceive secular youths by offering them false gods, undermining the only true hope for secular youth, namely, entering the Orthodox fold. In their eyes, as long as there are no false movements like the Reform to deceive the ignorant into thinking they are fulfilled Jews, there is always hope.

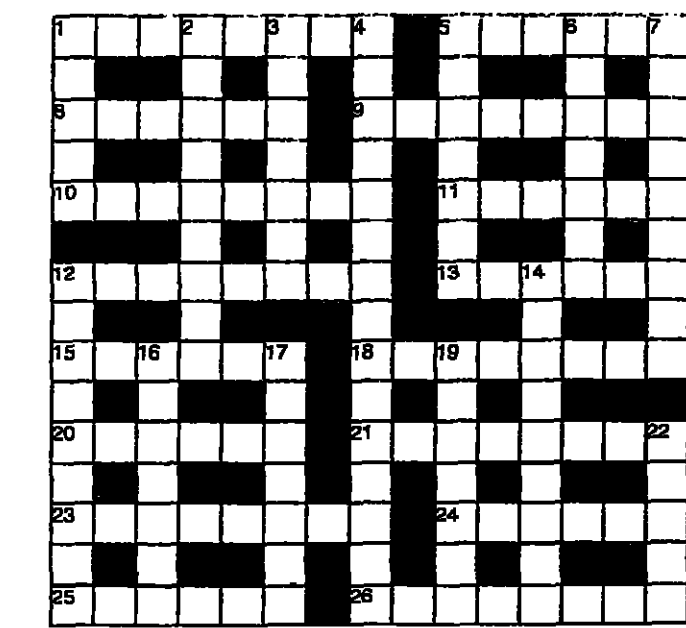
SRULIK



by DOSH

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Merry-go-round in use, enveloped in cheerful music (8)
 - 2 Conservative stands up to emergencies (6)
 - 3 Remote possibility this streaks through sky (6)
 - 4 Run back sick, having had a Mexican cake (8)
 - 5 Airport building that is linked to computer? (8)
 - 6 Version of Bible Irish opposed (6)
 - 7 Steers with look to centre of target (5-3)
 - 8 Wanting companionship. Nelly collapsed when pressed by love (6)
 - 9 Pressed on board? (6)
 - 10 A case of possession (8)
 - 20 Force learner to talk nonsense (6)
 - 21 Gives too much praise, notice, to poor salute (8)
 - 22 Creation, say, no one could have foreseen (3,2,3)
 - 23 An arrangement of crowning glory (6)
 - 24 Some held estates should be for the first-born (6)
 - 25 Cavalier man (8)
- DOWN**
- 1 See me in bed - a heavenly body (5)
 - 2 Lemon gone off? Have another fruit (4,5)
 - 3 Odd way to wander around (7)
 - 4 Anti-imperialist shows small hesitation seizing country (6,5)
 - 5 Doek brief goes to excellent student (7)
 - 6 Second place Strong desire to have reckless celebration (7)
 - 7 Some extra weight carried in car (5,4)
 - 8 Assignment, but not with a good looker? (5,4)
 - 9 Man is worse than alien (9)
 - 10 In big dictionary, 'glove' is left out (7)
 - 11 Note on undemanding pleasure (7)
 - 12 Anything in New York may be wicked (7)
 - 13 Porter shows the way out (5)

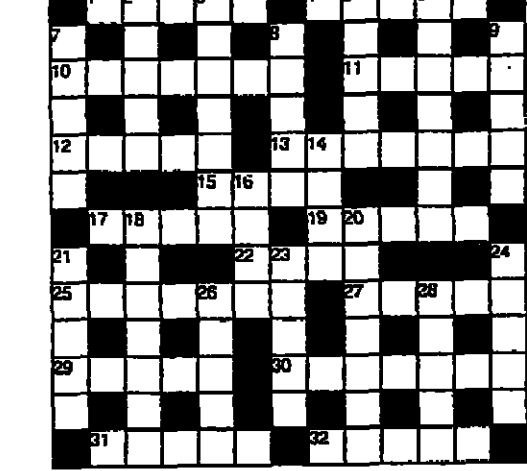


SOLUTIONS

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RETREAT
PROCLAIM
UNUSUAL
BERNARD
SEAR
POST
CLIMATE
WATER
WELTER

Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1 Locom, 4 Motive, 9 Samovar, 10 Demar, 11 Risk, 12 Chronicle, 13 Pit, 14 Stat, 15 Team, 16 Box, 20 Epistle, 21 After, 24 Gambin, 25 Educate, 26 Hornet, 27 Foray.
DOWN: 1 Lustra, 2 Comic, 3 Mover, 5 Obdurate, 6 Immense, 7 Enrich, 8 Ereck, 13 Pretence, 15 Trimmer, 17 Length, 19 Refere, 19 Freely, 22 Fleck, 23 Golf.

QUICK CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Parrot (5)
 - 4 Arithmetic (5)
 - 10 Noisy insects (7)
 - 11 Severe works (5)
 - 12 Eyelid rim (5)
 - 13 Stitching (7)
 - 15 Emperor (4)
 - 17 Foreign (5)
 - 19 Small island (5)
 - 22 One time only (4)
 - 25 Slavery (7)
 - 27 Egypt's capital (5)
 - 29 Direction (5)
 - 30 Ruled (7)
 - 31 Begin (5)
 - 32 Trap (5)
- DOWN**
- 2 Happen (5)
 - 3 Technology opposer (7)
 - 5 Loft (5)
 - 6 Unfriendly (7)
 - 7 French accent (5)
 - 8 Greek letter (5)
 - 9 Customary practice (5)
 - 14 Crystalline acid (4)
 - 16 Kiss & cuddle (4)
 - 18 Most lengthy (7)
 - 20 Part (7)
 - 21 Lessen (5)
 - 23 Closes (5)
 - 24 MCC's HQ (5)
 - 26 Viper (5)
 - 28 Interior (5)

L'expression personnelle

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EU

Continued from Page 2

After noting "with great satisfaction" Arafat's "strong condemnation of the terrorist act in Jerusalem" and citing a similar stand on its part, the EU message contends that the closure "will strengthen those who fight against the peace process."

It continues: "The measures severely affect and considerably increase the hardship of the Palestinian population although its responsibilities for the attack are not established."

Carrying the salutation, "Dear Mister President," signed exclusively by Pocos, the message further states: "The EU has decided to ask its representatives in Tel Aviv to make a demarche upon Foreign Minister [David] Levy to make our concern known."



Will Smith: enjoying big-screen stardom and big bucks

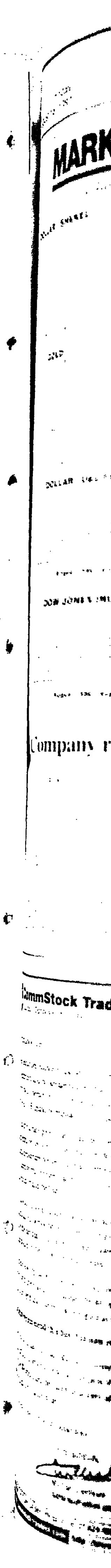
TU Be'Av, the most romantic day in the Hebrew calendar, is understandably a popular date for weddings. Amongst those getting married in Tu Be'Av ceremonies next week are Melissa Milgrom of Tel Aviv and Joshua Greenblatt of Germiston, South Africa. The couple met and fell in love via the World Wide Web. Through the web they discovered Neot Kedumim, the picturesque Biblical landscape reserve where they will be having the wedding. Melissa, originally from New Jersey, has been living in Israel for seven years and is responsible for Joshua's aliya.

Not only will they be living together, but they will also be going to work together. An entomologist, Melissa describes herself as "an insect and plant person" and her veterinarian hus-

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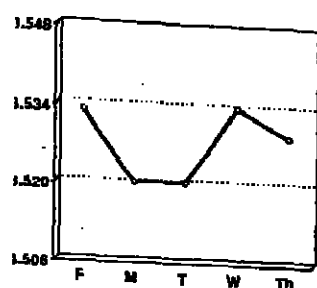
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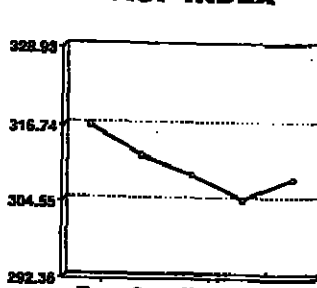
MARKETS

in brief

DOLLAR / SHEKEL

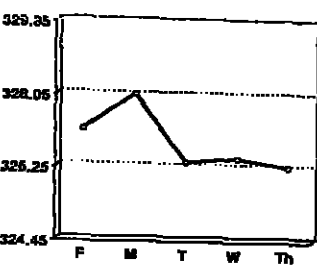


MAOF INDEX



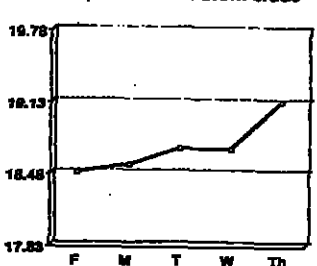
GOLD

\$ per ounce

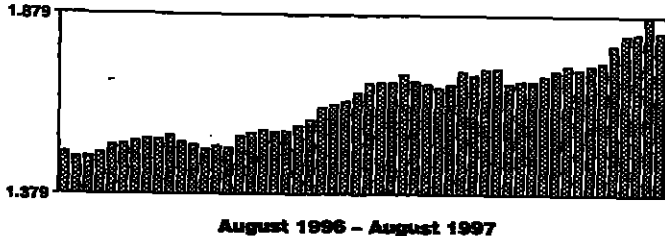


OIL

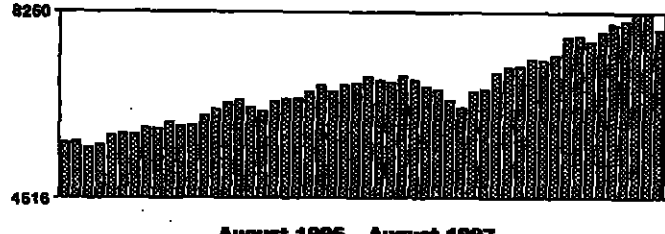
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



Company results

Tadiran profits down: Tadiran Ltd., Israel's largest electronics company, yesterday announced second-quarter net income of \$14.1m., down 73 percent from \$53m. in the corresponding quarter one year ago.

Revenue for the quarter was off 4% to \$298.7m., compared to \$311.4m. in the second quarter of 1996. Second-quarter 1996 results included a \$33.7m. gain from the initial public offering of subsidiary Tadiran Telecommunications.

CEO Israel Zamir said that the results reflect the company's increase in exports, as opposed to the decline in domestic sales.

Tadiran Telecommunications experienced a 59% decline in sales to Bezeq. However, this was offset by a 68% increase in export sales, Zamir said.

Tadiran develops and manufactures commercial and defense communications products, electronic systems, appliances, batteries and computer software.

Jennifer Friedlin

AT&T invests \$15m. in Kardan venture fund

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

The AT&T Investment Management Corporation financial division, has invested \$15 million in Kardan Technology Ventures, the US company's first direct investment in an Israeli entity, Yair Safrai, a general partner at Kardan, said yesterday.

The Investment Management Corporation is responsible for managing AT&T's money, including its pension funds.

"This reflects the faith that AT&T has in Israeli venture capital as well as their faith in Kardan," said Safrai. "Kardan's association with AT&T will help us in terms of

contacts that we will be able to provide to the companies we invest in."

AT&T refused to comment. "AT&T Investment Management Corporation as a policy does not confirm individual investments or speak to individual fund managers," said Eileen Connelly, a company spokesperson.

The Herzliya-based venture capital fund has garnered \$40m. in the first round of fund raising. Danalek, a Dutch investment company, put in \$10m. and Kardan invested \$5m. The remainder came from private investors.

The venture capital fund aims to raise a total of \$75m. to be invest-

ed in first- and later-stage financing for high-tech companies in the telecommunications, Internet software, electronics sectors.

Kardan is currently in negotiations with a number of potential European and American investors. Shlomo Kalish, founder of Jerusalem Global Ltd., a Jerusalem-based consulting and investment firm, will step down from his post as CEO in six months in order to join Kardan's management team.

"Kardan has a good track record and this is a good opportunity to fulfill our shared vision," said Kalish, who will remain active chairman of Jerusalem Global.

Meanwhile, the change will also allow Jerusalem Global to offer more complete services to the high-tech community.

In 1993, the founders of Kardan Technology Ventures established Nitzanim, a \$20m. fund that invested in 13 companies such as ESC Medical, Galileo Technologies, and RADCOM. Both ESC and Galileo went public on the Nasdaq stock exchange.

Jerusalem Global managed the private placements for both ESC and Galileo.

Based in New York, AT&T is the US's leading long-distance telephone company, recorded sales of more than \$52b. in 1996.

Ministry: Plywood industry still not ready for imports

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

The Ministry of Industry and Trade will most likely reject the plywood industry's request to postpone the 1998 deadline for reducing the tax on imports to zero, a ministry official said yesterday.

"The industry has not done anything significant in order to demonstrate that they have tried to prepare themselves for the opening of the market to imports," said Yifat Turbner, an economic advisor to Minister of Industry and Trade Natan Sharansky.

Industry representatives met on Wednesday with Sharansky in order to encourage him not to ease barriers



Sharansky met plywood industry officials this week.

on imports, saying that imports from Third World countries will threaten their business and cause an increase in unemployment.

In 1991, the Ministry of Industry and Trade decided that, due to the tough competition facing the plywood industry, it would lower import taxes gradually over a seven-year, rather than a five-year, period.

The ministry grants extensions only if the industry can demonstrate that it has made changes in an effort to become more competitive, such as automating factories, trimming staff or honing in on a specialized niche.

"Sometimes factories need more time to implement changes, but if they haven't adjusted, then why should we extend the deadline?" Turbner said.

An industry representative could not be reached for comment. The plywood industry's nine factories employ 2,500 workers.



End to rupiah speculative attacks

Indonesian Finance Minister Marie Muhammad (left) explains yesterday to reporters why the central bank floated the Indonesian rupiah after weeks of speculative attacks in the currency market. On his right is the Governor of Bank Indonesia Soedradjad Djiwandono (AP)

Slavin: All ministries facing cuts in '98

By DAVID HARRIS

All government ministries, including the Defense, Education and Labor and Social Affairs ministries, will have to cut their budgets next year, Finance Minister Director-General Shmuel Slavin said yesterday in an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*.

This is the first admission that the Treasury has no intention of meeting any of the ministerial demands for increases, such as that of Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai for an addition of NIS 1.5 billion to his ministry budget.

Mordechai has expressed his anger at the Treasury's lack of cooperation during four cabinet meetings over the last three weeks. The defense establishment is claiming its ability to cope in a war situation could be adversely affect-

ed by the ongoing cuts in expenditure.

While the cuts will affect each ministry, the size of the savings will not be the same across the board, said Slavin, adding that the Treasury will, in the next two weeks, present ministers with recommendations as to where the cuts can be made.

Originally, the cabinet was to vote on August 31 or September 1 on the specifics of the overall NIS 2.3 billion cut and the government's order of spending priorities for 1998. However, this key meeting will in all probability be delayed until September 7, because Mordechai is scheduled to be abroad on the earlier dates.

Aware of workers' objections to and fears of the plans for reforms across the economy approved by ministers on Wednesday, Slavin said the Treasury would not imple-

ment measures that seriously damage employees' interests. The way ahead is one of "humanistic capitalism," according to Slavin, who said he sees Thatcherism as being too drastic.

Changing track Slavin said the Income Tax Authority is likely to realize its predicted revenues this year, but Customs and VAT department receipts will register a considerable shortfall. The drop customs revenues is a sign of the economic slowdown, with consumers reducing their purchases of durable goods, he explained. This anticipated shortfall in revenues was taken into account in the additional 1997 NIS 800 million budget cut, approved on Wednesday by the Knesset Finance Committee.

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, meanwhile, yesterday

expressed his satisfaction at the 1998 NIS 164.4b. budget, which aims to reduce the budget deficit to 2.4 percent of gross domestic product (NIS 8.5b.), in line with government policy set in 1996.

However, Frenkel once again attacked the government's decision to set next year's inflation rate target at 7%-10%, the same as the target set for this year.

"Setting the target at this level does not reflect enough progress in reducing inflation,"

said the governor. Long-lasting growth demands significant advances on the inflation front.

Welcoming the approval of the structural changes in the economy, Frenkel reminded the government of its commitment to further liberalize the capital and financial markets and remove restrictions on foreign currency.



Mordechai angry at Treasury (David Robinson)



Slavin to present recommended cuts (A. Jerczowski)

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Eisenbergs' daughter denies marriage was a sham

By MARIE ROCHESTER

Allegations that the late Shoul Eisenberg's marriage was a sham were strongly denied yesterday by the late billionaire's daughter, Liz Hardy, in the latest round of the family feud over his estate.

The denial came following statements by friends of the Eisenbergs' son Erwin this week that Shoul had been involved in a long-term affair with his female secretary.

Before his death in March, Eisenberg was seen in public with his wife Leah, but according to Erwin, they had not lived together as a couple for 40 years.

Sources close to Erwin say that this was not a secret and Shoul reportedly told Erwin "from the day I married, I've been escaping from the home."

Speaking on Galei Zahal yesterday, Hardy claimed that her father, who was often away on business, was always accompanied by a male or female secretary.

She added, however, "I don't think that he had an affair with his secretary, because my father very much respected my mother."

Sources close to Erwin claim that Leah was more interested in books than in her family. She never attended school parents' meetings. When Erwin returned to Israel to serve in the IDF after attending boarding school in London, his mother never wrote or visited him, while his father kept in constant contact with him, they said.

The sources also claimed that when the Eisenbergs' daughter Edwina died after an illness, Leah was off on a ski trip.

But according to Hardy, when Erwin came home from boarding school "they [his parents] did take care of him. He always received food and warmth at home. He didn't lack anything."

She added that until her father died, "there were good relationships in the family; we spent holidays together and went to visit grandchildren, and the family life was good."

Erwin's friends claimed that Shoul had distanced himself from his wife and wouldn't even inform her of his whereabouts.

She received \$10,000 a month in her London bank account and more in her Israel account, they said. Shoul took care of the household bills, including the

house staff, and Leah's trips around the world.

After Eisenberg's death, the only will that could be found was a copy of one dated 1986, leaving 80 percent of the \$1.2 billion dollar estate to his son Erwin. The remaining 20% was divided equally among three of the four daughters and Yigal Diamant, the widower of Edwina.

The other daughter, Esther Zochovitzky, had been written out of the will when her father accused her husband Yonatan and his partner of embezzling funds Shoul allegedly intended for a take-over.

The family members are currently contesting the validity of the copy of the will in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court.

Sources close to Erwin claimed that Leah and one of the daughters hired a professional to break into Shoul's personal safes and residences, where there were reportedly hundreds of thousands of dollars as well as personal and business documents, possibly including the original will.

Hardy said: "My brother wants the whole cake, to control everything and to leave us on the side."

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.625	1.825	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)			

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (14.8.97)

Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.7309	3.7911	—	—	3.7834
German mark	3.4988	3.5533	3.43	3.61	3.5290
Pound sterling	1.9088	1.9394	1.87	1.97	1.9222
French franc	5.3396	5.3290	5.44	5.71	5.3910
Japanese yen (100)	0.5550	0.5732	0.55	0.59	0.5704
Dutch florin	3.0052	3.0537	2.95	3.10	3.0294
Swiss franc	1.8944	1.7218	1.86	1.75	1.7088
Swedish krona	2.3130	2.3504	2.27	2.39	2.3298
Norwegian krone	0.4387	0.4438	0.42	0.45	0.4387
Danish krone	0.4587	0.4572	0.45	0.48	0.4584
Finnish mark	0.5010	0.5091	0.49	0.52	0.5047
Canadian dollar	0.6372	0.6475	0.62	0.68	0.6412
Australian dollar	2.5158	2.5382	2.47	2.60	2.5382
S. African rand	2.5898	2.6413	2.55	2.68	2.6247
Belgian franc (10)	0.7487	0.7538	0.67	0.77	0.7553
Austrian schilling (10)	0.8233	0.8382	0.80	0.86	0.8308
Italian lira (1000)	2.7127	2.7556	2.68	2.80	2.7320
Jordanian dinar	1.9500	1.9815	1.91	2.01	1.9855
Egyptian pound	4.3286	5.0081	4.88	5.20	4.9759
Irish punt	1.0000	1.0000	1.00	1.00	1.0000
Spanish pesete (100)	3.7481	3.8098	—	—	3.7751
	5.0634	5.1451	4.97	5.22	5.1012
	2.2585	2.2929	2.21	2.33	2.2749

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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Table with columns: AMEX, NASDAQ, Last, Change. Lists various Israeli companies like Amtek, Elbit Systems, etc.

MISHTANIM LEADING STOCKS

Table with columns: Last, Change. Lists Mishtanim leading stocks like Alpar Mills, Amtek, etc.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table with columns: Last, Change. Lists international shares like Alcoa, Amgen, etc.

NEW YORK

Large table with columns: Last, Change. Lists various New York stocks like Alcoa, Amgen, etc.

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TASE ROUNDUP

Table with columns: Last, Change. Lists TASE stocks like Amtek, Elbit Systems, etc.

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Budget cuts push TASE up

Shares on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange rose yesterday for the first time in five trading days after the cabinet approved cuts to the 1998 budget on Wednesday...

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Advertisement for 'Budget cuts push TASE up' with large text and graphics.

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LONDON — European stock markets were mixed to lower by mid-afternoon yesterday, refusing to follow an opening rally on Wall Street...

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Blue-chips end slightly higher

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Blue-chip stocks closed slightly higher yesterday as the market again worked through a consolidation of its steep, summer-long rally...

Table with columns: Last, Change. Lists blue-chip stocks like Amgen, etc.

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Shahen accused Israel of making hunger a tool of policy. Shlomo Dror, spokesman for the government coordinator of activities in the territories...

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Table with columns: Last, Change. Lists Eurostocks like Amgen, etc.

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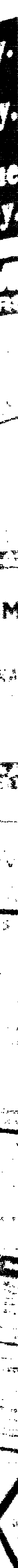
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NEWS

in brief

Yeshiva students may be charged with murder

Jerusalem prosecutors are weighing the possibility of charging a 74-year-old Arab gas station attendant, Mahmud Abu-Sara, with murder for the slaying Tuesday of a 4-year-old Arab boy, Yehonatan, as he hung onto the boy's vehicle to try to stop them when they failed to pay for gas at a Sheikh Jarrah station. Judge Yehezkel Barkley of magistrate's court heard a police request last night to extend the suspect's detention by 10 days. Police based their petition on a law regarding premeditated crimes. *Tim*

Bad drivers to take refresher course

Drivers convicted of traffic violations that led to accidents will soon be required to take a refresher course, part of a new initiative by Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy to reduce road accidents.

Levy said in the first stage of the plan, about 1,000 drivers involved in accidents in the last three years (1994-96) and who accumulated seven other traffic violations - at least one of them leading to a suspension of their license - will be summoned to take the course. *Tim*

Firefighters threaten to increase sanctions

Firefighters said they would step up their sanctions begun Wednesday if Beit Shemesh-area fire and rescue workers are not paid their July salaries by Sunday.

The workers are currently working on an emergency footing, engaging only in putting out fires. They are not conducting investigations or training or implementing fire prevention programs for local authorities. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Elderly woman found dead

The bound body of an 85-year-old woman was found yesterday in her home at 11 Ichilov Street in Petach Tikvah. Police suspect that Tovah Schtetler was murdered and were investigating the circumstances. Schtetler lived alone. Her body was discovered after friends called firefighters to break open her locked door. It wasn't yet known whether money was stolen from the apartment. *Tim*

State submits summary in Hanit Kikos case

The State Attorney's Office submitted a written summary to the Supreme Court in the case of Suleiman Abeid, who was found innocent several weeks ago of the 1993 murder of Hanit Kikos, but guilty of raping her.

Court President Aharon Barak agreed to have the case heard again before an expanded panel of nine justices.

The prosecution believes there is enough evidence to convict Abeid of both crimes, and that it is not possible to separate them. It also believes Abeid's confessions to both crimes should be given greater weight than two justices on the earlier panel gave them.

The new panel will review summaries from both sides before deciding whether to hold another hearing. *Tim*

Weizman hosts Netanyahu in Caesarea

President Ezer Weizman and his wife Reuma yesterday hosted Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his family at his Caesarea home. Arye Shumer, director of the President's Residence, said that no significant political discussions took place. Netanyahu is vacationing with his family near Caesarea. *Batsheva Tsar*

Report: Levy could be next president

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

The Geshet and Tsomet parties may merge with the Likud and run as one ticket in the next national elections, Channel 1 reported last night.

The deal reportedly calls for having Foreign Minister David Levy appointed as president after President Ezer Weizman would complete a second term in 2003.

Both Levy, who heads Geshet, and Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan, the head of Tsomet, denied any knowledge of such negotiations. "People talk, but nobody is authorized to speak in my name and I know nothing of such talks," Levy said.

Channel 1 said that the talks have been conducted

secretly between Avigdor Lieberman, director-general of the prime minister's office, and David Appel, a Likud official close to Levy. Other changes they are said to be discussing were to add 1,000 Central Committee members to the Likud, 500 apiece from Geshet and Tsomet.

In addition, Likud would do away with the primary system it introduced in the late 1980's to choose Knesset candidates, and revert to having the Central Committee select nominees. Geshet and Tsomet would be assured of 10 slots apiece in the first 35 places on the list.

Some Geshet leaders were surprised by the report. MKs David Magen and Yehuda Lankri insisted that a merger was not on the agenda.

Barak: Reorganizing party will be painful

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak said yesterday that reorganizing the party would require painful cutbacks, including the dismissal of many workers.

Speaking to 200 Labor youth, Barak said the party must operate within two sections only: organization leading up to election day, and information and media.

He said due to the direct election law, the party must be ready for a situation in which elections are declared within 60 days, and must therefore gear itself to be in

a constant election campaign.

In order to win in the next elections, Barak said, Labor must "reach the hearts" of more people in the political center, new immigrants, and supporters of The Third Way, Geshet, and Shas.

In another meeting with workers' representatives, Barak warned against the increase in unemployment deriving from the stalemate in the peace process, its security implications and Israel's growing international isolation.

By the end of this year, Barak

said, there will be more than 200,000 unemployed people, compared to half that number last year.

He said the government collects unemployment money by taxing workers, not the wealthy. "[Prime Minister] Netanyahu, in his socially insensitive policy cares only for a small circle of supporters and deprives large sectors of the public of their self-dignity. We will lead a way, which will create tens of thousands of more work places and a reduction in unemployment," Barak said.

Web 'treasure hunt' teaches about Jerusalem

By JUDY SEGEL

A "treasure hunt" aimed at teaching the Internet-using public some basic facts about Jerusalem - and offering a \$10,000 prize whose winner will be drawn in December - has been launched by the International Forum for a United Jerusalem (IFUJ).

"Our aim is both educative - to present a wealth of data, partly unknown, about Jerusalem's history - and corrective - to counteract the anti-Zionist campaign currently running wild on the Internet," said IFUJ founder and executive committee chairman Eliyahu Tal.

"It's amazing how much ignorance about Jerusalem there is among the public at large around the world, among some Jews and even some Israelis. How many Jews, for example, can tell you why the bridegroom breaks a glass at his wedding [To remember the destruction of Jerusalem]?"

"How many know that the Western Wall is not a relic of the Second Temple proper but a part of the massive retaining wall of the Temple Mount platform? Who knows that Al-Aksa is Arabic for 'the farthest' and that the Koran never mentions Jerusalem by name?"

The site was launched on August 1 at <http://www.jerusalem-treasure.org.il>. It will remain on line until the last day of Hanukka, when Jerusalem

Mayor Ehud Olmert will draw the \$10,000 winner from among those who register on the site.

Tal says he will "feel it was a failure unless we get at least 100,000 to register, but we expect many more."

To register, one must merely go through a 20-minute on-line treasure hunt, which includes attractive illustrations and a minimum of text, and select six correct sites to match written descriptions. Getting the right answers is easy, as the program won't proceed until you click the correct one. Tal noted that registering more than once will not increase one's chances of getting the prize, as a special program weeds out duplicates.

The effort has received the blessings of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Olmert, and former Mayor Teddy Kolek, who sent in his own NIS 5,000 check as a contribution to the project.

The Jerusalem Post is one of its sponsors and will supply a link to its popular Internet Edition. A Hebrew edition, which will replace some of the Christian references with Jewish ones, will be ready in a month.

"We don't want to preach to the converted," concluded Tal. "We want to reach an audience beyond the Jewish periphery, especially young people. It will be a counterweight to various Islamic and Palestinian sites that pervert facts about Jerusalem."

FUNDS

At summer's end, children need to buy schoolbooks

By BEVERLEE BLACK

It's that time of the year when I get around to Israel's perennial problem. When I came on aliya a lifetime ago, I was amazed to see 10-year-olds sitting on sidewalks in the center of Jerusalem selling the previous year's schoolbooks.

I didn't know parents had to pay for the books and that the children were selling their old ones so as to have money to buy the new ones.

So, as the beginning of the school year approaches, I again have dozens of appeals on my desk. Last week, I was able to help 12 families who don't have the money to buy books for all their children. In one case the family needed more than NIS 3,000 (\$850) to provide their seven children with books and school supplies.

One would have thought that the education authorities, in all their wisdom, would plan it so older children could pass on their used books to their younger siblings. Instead, however, they seem to have the habit of discontinuing the previous curriculum every couple of years, thus making the books "out of date."

So I come back to my perennial appeal - money for school books. What better mitzva.

Mail your checks to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem 91000.

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NIS 180 Dr. Gerard Kreisberg, Herzliya Pithuh.

NIS 150 Anon., Bnei Brak. In honor of the 60th wedding anniversary of

Annie and Sieg Mendels, Herzliya. NIS 103 M. Shevergold, Jim. M. Gellman, Kibbutz Sasa, Martin and Yael Lander, Kfar Sava. J. and N. Gordon, Netanya. In honor of the 80th birthday of our beloved grandmother, Sabina - Schlusberg. The Schlusbergs, Kibbutz Yavne.

NIS 50 Paula Blum, Nahariya.

NIS 38 in honor of our dear father and grandfather, Elliott Rodgers' 70th birthday - till 120 - The Rosenfelds.

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NIS 10 Esther Rosenstein, Netanya.

NIS 200 in memory of my wife, Bernarda Aloy - Nemesto Aloy, Cleveland, OH.

\$150 Carolyn Harris, Villa Rica, GA. \$100 in honor of our grandchildren - Diane and Simon Zunamon, Lincolnwood, IL.

\$100 in memory of our parents, Sylvia and Yetta Barish, and Rabbi Simcha and Minnie Levy - Millie and Leon Levy, Mount Laurel, NJ.

\$90.08 Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Lazar, Winnetka, IL.

\$50 in memory of Rabbi Shlomo Riskin's father - Allen Herschaft, Brooklyn, NY. Donated by Chaski Naor of Brooklyn, NY, from his bar-mitzva gift.

\$25 in loving memory of my dear friend, Syd Gans, San Diego, CA - Roman Rakover, Van Nuys, CA.

\$18 in honor of my mother, Esther Hamburger of Jerusalem, on her celebration of 25 years after aliya - Jay Hamburger, Houston, TX. In memory of the victims of the massacre in Mahaneh Yehuda - Jay Hamburger, Houston, TX. Daniel Saenz, Gonzalez, Arlington, TX. On the occasion of my mother's yahrzeit - Irving Sonenshine, Charleston, SC.

\$18 in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Helen and Jack Lewis. Can\$25 Terence and Joanna Miller, Markham, Canada.

New Donations Progress Totals NIS 2,294 NIS 107,252 \$637 \$31,223.24 (other currencies converted into shekels)

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Some 50 fragments of medieval manuscripts are now at the Israel Museum. Sounds dull? Well, they form one of the most exciting and moving exhibitions I have ever seen.

Meir Ronnen
The Jerusalem Post

THE CAIRO GENIZA SEMINAR



In 1896 at the Ben Ezra Synagogue in the Fustat area of old Cairo, Prof. Solomon Schechter of Cambridge University revealed to the world the staggering contents of its Geniza. 140,000 fragments were given to the Cambridge University for study. In the whole history of Judaic studies there has never been a more dramatic event than the discovery of these ancient documents. Poetry, prayers, accounts of journeys, files, tens of thousands of handwritten documents, some signed by the Rambam himself, and much more. A hundred years have passed and still not all the material has been

studied. Now a selection on loan from Cambridge is on view in Jerusalem. It presents a vivid picture of the spiritual - and not so spiritual - mores and business dealings of a medieval Jewish community.

Shorashim and The Jerusalem Post Travel Club invite you to a weekend seminar with the experts, Prof. Stefan Reif, Head of the Cairo Archive, Cambridge University, and Prof. Mordechai Akiva Fridman, Tel Aviv University.

DATE: Friday and Saturday, 19-20 September
AT: Holiday Inn, Crowne Plaza, Jerusalem.
PRICE: NIS 670 per person in double room, half board (Shabbat dinner and breakfast), three lectures, tour of the exhibition at the Israel Museum, and use of hotel facilities.

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Daly takes early PGA lead

MAMARONECK, NY (Reuters) - John Daly, who walked off the course in the last major championship he played, shot a record-breaking four-under-par 66 yesterday to take the early lead in the PGA Championship - the tournament that launched his mercurial career in 1991.

Daly, a recovering alcoholic who quit after 27 holes in the US Open in June because he still had the shakes due to a drinking binge in March, posted an impressive seven birdies on Winged Foot Golf Club's vaulted West Course while making only two bogeys.

"I hit a lot of fairways and made some putts," Daly said after matching the competitive course record that Fuzzy Zoeller set in winning the 1984 US Open at Winged Foot.

The 31-year-old Daly, who won the 1995 British Open in a playoff, said Wednesday's sporadic rains had softened the greens and made them more receptive to approach shots on Winged Foot's long dogleg par-4s.

However, the lead taken by the newly slimmed-down Daly was not assured as there were still more than 120 players yet to finish when he posted his 66.

His closest pursuer was the reigning British Open champion Justin Leonard, who was three-under-par after 16 holes.

Leonard, 25, playing with the winners of the year's two other majors - Masters champion Tiger Woods and US Open winner Ernie Els - made three birdies in a row starting at the 11th as he outplayed his "twenty-something" playing partners.

Woods, 21, got off to a fast start with three consecutive birdies on the front nine but he gave those strokes back in two holes coming

home. Woods, who had a quadruple bogey and two triple bogeys in the British Open at Troon, double bogeyed the par-5 12th and bogeyed the 14th.

South African Els, who won his second US Open at Congressional Country Club in June, also struggled after a good start. He was three under after seven holes but then went five over



Ernie Els (Reuters)

in the next seven.

Paul Azinger and Bob Tway - both former PGA Championship winners - each shot two-under to stand two behind Daly among the early finishers.

While the slightly-soft conditions made Winged Foot's notoriously hard greens a little more receptive for the early starters, not everyone found the famous course easy.

Britons Nick Faldo and Darren Clarke, joint

runner-up to Leonard in the British Open at Troon last month, both struggled.

Faldo shot 75 and Clarke 74.

Jesper Parnevik of Sweden, runner-up at Troon for the second time at a British Open, shot 76.

Phil Mickelson, another under-30 star who played with Faldo and Clarke, shot 69, as did fellow-American Doug Martin, who played in the second group of the day.

Spain's 25-year-old Ignacio Garrido, expected to be on Europe's Ryder Cup team in September, matched par 70 in debut in the US PGA Championship, the fourth and final major of the year. He was joined at 70 by American Paul Goydos.

US-PGA Running Scores

Phil Mickelson 34-35-69; Len Maniace 34-38-72; Kevin Sutherland 34-39-73; Darren Clarke 38-36-74; Nick Faldo 39-36-75; Mike Brisky 37-38-75; Hal Sutton 39-39-78; John Mahaffey 38-40-78; Wayne Grady 41-38-79; John Daly 35-31-66; Bob Tway 33-35-68; Paul Azinger 35-33-68; Paul Goydos 33-37-70; Andrew Magee 35-36-71; Craig Stadler 36-36-72; Per-Ulrik Johansson 32-41-73; Duffy Waldorf 35-39-74; Ben Crenshaw 37-40-77; Payne Stewart 33-37-70; Fred Couples 34-37-71; Steve Elkington 37-35-72; Frank Nobile 36-36-72; Nick Price 36-36-72; Dudley Hart 39-35-74; Clarence Rose 37-37-74; Ed Fiori 37-39-76; Jesper Parnevik 37-39-76; Justin Leonard 34-34-68; Ernie Els 34-36-70; Tiger Woods 32-38-70; Tom Watson 34-37-71; Tim Herron 37-35-72; Brad Faxon 34-39-73; Lee Westwood 37-37-74; Stuart Appleby 37-38-75; Joe Ozaki 34-41-75.

Donald fires Warwickshire into NatWest final

BIRMINGHAM (Reuters) - South African fast bowler Allan Donald collected five wickets to hustle Warwickshire to a 105-run win over Sussex in the NatWest Trophy semifinal at Edgbaston yesterday.

With the match carried over from Wednesday, Sussex resumed on 43 for two from 11 overs chasing a target of 343 from a further 49 overs.

Donald quickly removed former England batsman Bill Athey as Sussex struggled to come to terms with the required run rate.

Mark Newell hit the top score of 79 and Sussex captain Peter Moores made 45.

But Donald had the last word to finish with five for 37 as Sussex were dismissed for 237 in 53.1 overs.

David Hemp, who made 111 not out for Warwickshire, was the man of the match.

Beersheba return with goalless draw

By ORI LEWIS

Hapoel Beersheba last night became the third Israeli side to register a 0-0 score in their European cup fixture when they came away with the promising result from Vilnius last night.

The Beershebans, playing in front of 2,000 spectators in the Cup Winners' Cup first round, against Zalgiris Vilnius in the Lithuanian capital, will be very happy with the result, which follows Hapoel Petah Tikva's goalless draw away against Vejle of Denmark on Tuesday and Betar Jerusalem's similar result against Sporting Lisbon at home the following day.

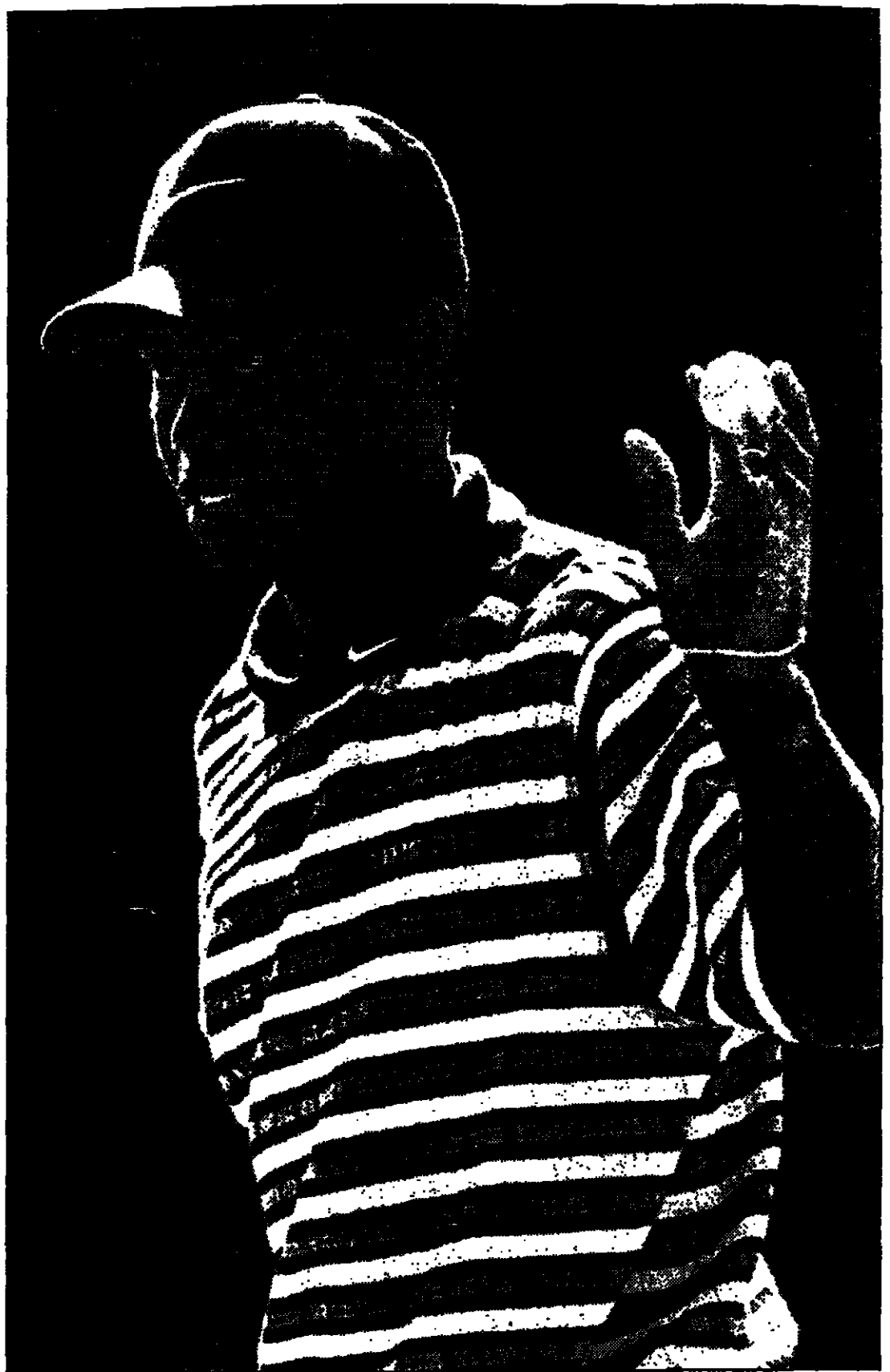
The return leg will be played in Beersheba on August 27.

Israel-Bulgaria

National team coach Shlomo Scharf will today name his final 18-man squad to travel to Sofia on Sunday for Israel's do-or-die World Cup qualifier against Bulgaria.

Itzik Zohar, who is now ready to formalize his contract with Crystal Palace, has been left out of the squad. Scharf claims this is because Zohar has not had any match play since the start of the season.

Betar defender Yossi Abuksis, who had an outstanding match against Sporting Lisbon on Wednesday, has been drafted as a replacement for Zohar.



Tiger Woods after his first-round 70 (32-38) at the PGA Championship yesterday. (Reuters)

Emil Mosbacher at 75

GREENWICH, Conn. (AP) - Emil Mosbacher, the winning skipper in two America's Cup yacht races, died of lung cancer on Wednesday.

The 75-year-old Mosbacher, who was Jewish, guided the yacht's successful defense of the America's Cup in 1992. He was the fourth skipper in that best-of-7 series by a scant 28 seconds, the smallest margin in the history of the event.

In 1968, Mosbacher returned with a new yacht, Intrepid, and successfully defended the Cup for a second time.

He served as the state department's chief of protocol in the Richard Nixon administration from 1969 to 1972 and then was appointed chairman of the New York State Racing and Wagering Board, a position he held for six months, until an illness prompted his resignation.

Irabu wins, Martinez hits 39th

NEW YORK (AP) - Hideki Irabu, demoted to the minors last month after four starts, picked up his third win and Tino Martinez hit his major league-leading 39th homer, leading the New York Yankees over the Kansas City Royals 9-3 Wednesday.

Irabu (3-2) allowed three runs and six hits in 5 1/2 innings, struck out five and walked two. The right-hander struck out four of his first five batters and took a shutout into the fifth, when he appeared to tire.

Tigers 13, Indians 3

Orel Hershiser (10-5) came off the disabled list and rescued host Cleveland, allowing one run and five hits in 5 1/2 innings to help the Indians gain a split.

Bobby Higginson hit two homers, and Damon Easley and Phil Nevin added one each as Detroit won the opener.

Willie Blair (12-5) won the opener, allowing three runs and nine hits in eight innings. John Smiley (1-2) gave up seven runs and six hits in 3 1/2 innings.

Glenn Dishman (1-1) lost the second game, giving up four runs and six hits in 3 1/2 innings.

Rangers 7, Red Sox 6

Juan Gonzalez went 3-for-4 with two homers and five RBIs as Texas won on the road.

Texas had two six-run leads before the Red Sox cut it to 7-6 in the seventh on an RBI groundout by Troy O'Leary and Scott

Hatteberg's two-run single. Boston starter Steve Avery (6-3) lasted just two innings, his shortest outing of the season. Avery gave up six runs on four hits and five walks.

Tanyon Sturtz (1-0) allowed three runs and seven hits in five innings. John Wetteland, the sixth Rangers pitcher, worked the ninth for his 26th save.

Athletics 4, Orioles 1

Andrew Lorraine outpitched Mike Mussina for his first win in the major leagues and visiting Oakland hit three homers.

Lorraine teamed with five relievers on an eight-inning. He gave up two runs - one earned - in five innings, walking one and striking out eight. Lorraine, a 25-year-old left-hander, was brought up from Class AAA Edmondton.

Mark Bellhorn, Jason McDonald and Brent Mayne all homered off Mussina (13-5), who had a personal three-game winning streak snapped. In five innings - his shortest outing since Opening Day - Mussina allowed four runs and seven hits.

Blue Jays 3, Twins 2

Jose Cruz Jr. hit a run-scoring single with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning as Minnesota fell to its fifth consecutive loss.

Shannon Stewart singled with one out off Mike Trombley (1-2) and stole second. Juan Samuel walked, and Cruz greeted Eddie Guardado with a liner off the base of the wall in left, helping the Blue

Jays to their 12th win in 15 home games.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Mets 5, Cardinals 4

Pinch-hitter Butch Huskey singled home the go-ahead run in the top of the 10th inning as New York overcame two homers by Mark McGwire.

Edgardo Alfonzo walked against Tony Fossas (1-5) leading off the 10th and John Olerud singled him to second. Todd Hundley's grounder advanced the runners and Huskey grounded a single to left off Curtis King.

McGwire raised his home-run total to 38 with the 40th multi-homer game. He hit a 455-foot upper deck shot in the first off Brian Bohannon, the longest of the year at Busch Stadium. His eighth-inning drive off Mel Rojas tied the score 4-4.

Martins 8, Astros 6

Alex Fernandez (15-8) struck out 10 in winning his fifth consecutive start, and Jeff Conine hit a go-ahead, two-run single in the top of the eighth.

Fernandez allowed five runs - three earned - and nine hits in seven innings.

Back-to-back homers by Derek Bell and Jeff Bagwell had given the Astros a 5-4 lead in the seventh. But Jose Lima (1-6) walked Barry Bonilla in the eighth, Darby Daulton doubled and Conine greeted Russ Springer with his third hit.

Phillies 12, Rockies 8

Mike Lieberthal had four hits, including a three-run homer, and Mark Leiter (8-12) contributed a two-run single as visiting Philadelphia matched a season high with its fourth straight victory and 12th in 15 games.

Mickey Morandini added four hits and an RBI for the Phillies and Leiter won for the third time in four starts, allowing six runs and nine hits in 5 1/3 innings.

Jeff Reed drove in three runs with his 10th homer and a two-run single. Andres Galarraga hit his 31st homer and drove in three runs, increasing his major league-leading total to 112.



STYMIED - Manchester United's Jordi Cruyff fails to score against Southampton 'keeper Paul Jones. United won 1-0. (Reuters)

Match abandoned as Derby's lights go out; Utd, Leeds win

LONDON (AP) - Derby County's first game at its new Pride Park stadium was cut short by an embarrassing floodlight failure Wednesday to leave the Premier League club far from proud.

The lights went out in the second half with County leading 2-1. Unfortunately, after referee Uriah Rennie, the first black official to take charge of a Premier League game, decided to abandon the game and the fans were leaving, the lights came on again.

Liverpool, rated as main contender for Manchester United's title, won the Anfield lights had failed after it lost 2-1 at home to Leicester despite a first goal for the club by former Inter Milan midfielder Paul Ince.

Matthew Elliott and new signing Graham Fenton netted for the Foxes at Anfield and Liverpool has

only one point from two games while Leicester has a maximum six.

Substitute David Beckham gave Manchester United a 1-0 victory over Southampton at Old Trafford and Alex Ferguson's team, aiming for a fifth title in six seasons, has started with two shutout victories.

Aston Villa, an outside bet for the title, has begun with two losses including a 4-0 thumping at home by Blackburn, with Chris Sutton scoring the first three before half time.

Leeds scored a 3-1 victory at neighbor Sheffield Wednesday with two goals from Rod Wallace while West Ham downed cross-London rival Tottenham 2-1 despite Les Ferdinand's first goal for the Spurs since he transferred from Newcastle.

Van Basten voted best player of early '90s

MILAN (AP) - Marco Van Basten, whose soccer career was ended by a chronic ankle injury, was voted the world's best player of the 1990s in a survey of Italian coaches and former stars.

Van Basten, a Dutch international who played for seven years with AC Milan, received 295 votes in

the survey taken by *Corriere dello Sport* and published yesterday.

The Dutch forward, a three-time European player of the year who led the Netherlands to the continental title in 1988, retired in 1993 after operations on his right ankle.

His professional career began in 1982 with Ajax Amsterdam.

Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta finished second in the balloting with 205 votes.

Liberian forward George Weah, who replaced Van Basten at AC Milan, was third with 198 votes, ahead of retired Brazilian star Antonio Careca.

Henderson swapped to Angels

SAN DIEGO (AP) - Rickey Henderson, still a sparkplug at 38, was traded Wednesday from the San Diego Padres to the Anaheim Angels for three prospects.

The deal comes a day after Angels leadoff hitter Tony Phillips was charged with felony possession of cocaine and benched pending a meeting with baseball's doctors.

San Diego received minor league pitchers Ryan Hancock, a right-hander, and Stevenson Agosto, a left-hander, and a player to be named. Henderson is baseball's career stolen base leader with 1,215, including 29 this year. He returns to the AL, where he spent 16 1/2 seasons.

Wednesday's NL results: Philadelphia 12, Colorado 8; Chicago 6, San Francisco 5; Pittsburgh 2, Atlanta 1; Florida 8, Houston 6; NY 5, St. Louis 4 (10); Cincinnati 2, San Diego 0; Los Angeles 3, Montreal 1.

Wednesday's AL results: NY 9, Kansas City 3; Detroit 13, Cleveland 3 (1st); Cleveland 9, Detroit 1 (2nd); Texas 7, Boston 6; Toronto 3, Minnesota 2; Chicago 5, Anaheim 2; Oakland 4, Baltimore 2.

American League					National League				
East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB	East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	73	42	.535	-	Atlanta	75	47	.615	-
New York	70	48	.593	4 1/2	Florida	69	50	.580	4 1/2
Toronto	58	60	.492	18 1/2	New York	66	53	.555	7 1/2
Boston	58	63	.479	18	Montreal	60	58	.508	13
Detroit	58	63	.479	19	Philadelphia	42	75	.359	30 1/2
Central Division	W	L	Pct.	GB	Central Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cleveland	60	56	.517	-	Houston	65	68	.537	-
Chicago	58	60	.496	2 1/2	Pittsburgh	59	61	.492	5 1/2
Minnesota	57	60	.487	3 1/2	St. Louis	54	65	.454	10
Kansas City	51	68	.429	10 1/2	Cincinnati	52	66	.441	11 1/2
West Division	W	L	Pct.	GB	West Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Seattle	66	52	.559	-	Chicago	49	72	.405	16
Anaheim	66	53	.555	5 1/2	San Francisco	67	54	.554	-
Texas	58	62	.483	9	Los Angeles	65	56	.542	1 1/2
Oakland	48	73	.397	19 1/2	San Diego	57	63	.475	9 1/2
					Colorado	57	64	.471	10

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BATTING—FThomas, Chicago, .348; WClark, Texas, .333; O'Neill, New York, .333; Ramirez, Cleveland, .332; MVaughn, Boston, .329; BeWilliams, New York, .325; Justice, Cleveland, .324; Cora, Seattle, .324.

RUNS—Knoblauch, Minnesota, 93; GarciaParra, Boston, 91; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 80; Jeter, New York, 83; BLHuntley, Detroit, 83; EMartinez, Seattle, 83; ToClark, Detroit, 82; Cora, Seattle, 82.

RBI—TMartinez, New York, 108; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 108; Salmon, Anaheim, 85; FThomas, Chicago, 85; JuGonzalez, Texas, 83; O'Neill, New York, 81; ToClark, Detroit, 80.

HOME RUNS—TMartinez, New York, 39; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 37; McGwire, Oakland, 34; Thome, Cleveland, 30; JuGonzalez, Texas, 28; ToClark, Detroit, 27; FThomas, Chicago, 27; Buhner, Seattle, 27.

STOLEN BASES—BLHuntley, Detroit, 60; Nixon, Toronto, 47; Knoblauch, Minnesota, 45; TGoodwin, Texas, 40; Vizquel, Cleveland, 32; Durham, Chicago, 25; AFRodriguez, Seattle, 22.

PITCHING (14 Decisions)—RJohnson, Seattle, 16-3, .842, 2.35; Clemens, Toronto, 18-4, .816, 1.86; Moyer, Seattle, 12-4, .750, 4.12; Erickson, Baltimore, 14-5, .737, 3.33; Radko, Minnesota, 16-6, .727, 3.29; Mussina, Baltimore, 13-6, .722, 3.28; DWEKouts—RJohnson, Seattle, 243; Clemens, Toronto, 215; Cone, New York, 214; Mussina, Baltimore, 161; CFInley, Anaheim, 149; Fassero, Seattle, 145; Appier, Kansas City, 145.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

BATTING—Gwynn, San Diego, .383; LWalker, Colorado, .377; Piazza, Los Angeles, .350; Lofton, Atlanta, .344; Joyner, San Diego, .332; MaGrace, Chicago, .323; Galarraga, Colorado, .320.

RUNS—Biggio, Houston, 107; LWalker, Colorado, 106; Bonds, San Francisco, 87; Galarraga, Colorado, 87; Bagwell, Houston, 85; EYoung, Colorado, 78; Mondesi, Los Angeles, 74.

RBI—Galarraga, Colorado, 112; Bagwell, Houston, 105; LWalker, Colorado, 97; Gwynn, San Diego, 96; ChJones, Atlanta, 94; Kent, San Francisco, 82; Sosa, Chicago, 80.

HITS—Gwynn, San Diego, 168; LWalker, Colorado, 164; Biggio, Houston, 151; Galarraga, Colorado, 144; ChJones, Atlanta, 141; Piazza, Los Angeles, 141; Womack, Pittsburgh, 140.

HOME RUNS—LWalker, Colorado, 35; Bagwell, Houston, 33; Galarraga, Colorado, 31; Castilla, Colorado, 29; Bonds, San Francisco, 28; Hundley, New York, 26; Sosa, Chicago, 26.

STOLEN BASES—DSanders, Cincinnati, 55; Womack, Pittsburgh, 44; DeShields, St. Louis, 41; EYoung, Colorado, 32; Henderson, San Diego, 29; OVeras, San Diego, 26; McCracken, Colorado, 25; Mondesi, Los Angeles, 25; LWalker, Colorado, 25; Dunston, Chicago, 25.

PITCHING (14 Decisions)—Negrila, Atlanta, 16-2, .880, 2.82; Kile, Houston, 16-3, .842, 2.31; GMadux, Atlanta, 15-3, .833, 2.31; Estes, San Francisco, 14-4, .778, 3.01; PMartinez, Montreal, 14-5, .737, 1.72; JHamilton, San Diego, 10-4, .714, 4.16; Juden, Montreal, 11-5, .687, 4.22.

STRIKEOUTS—Schilling, Philadelphia, 232; PMartinez, Montreal, 207; Nomo, Los Angeles, 177; Smoltz, Atlanta, 172; KJBrown, Florida, 164; ABones, St. Louis, 160; Kile, Houston, 158.

SAVES—Beck, San Francisco, 33; Nen, Florida, 30; JoFranco, New York, 30; Hoffman, San Diego, 29; Wohlers, Atlanta, 28; ToWorrell, Los Angeles, 28; Eckerley, St. Louis, 28.

Peretz: Gov't reforms will cut jobs

Histadrut set to declare general labor dispute on Sunday

By DAVID HARRIS

The Histadrut will declare a general labor dispute on Sunday as the organization steps up its opposition to the government-approved blueprint for structural reforms in the economy.

Histadrut chairman Amir Peretz met Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman yesterday in a bid to reach agreement over the reforms. They also discussed the ongoing disagreement between Bezeq and its employees over company reorganization and the sale of some 12.4 percent of company shares to Merrill Lynch - a deal the workers claim was implemented without their knowledge.

Before his 90-minute meeting with Neeman, Peretz told reporters that the government program of reforms, aimed at increasing competition, will in fact be "a program for increasing unemployment in Israel, attacking workers' rights in almost every sector."

Responding, Neeman said workers have no need to fear the planned changes. "Growth will bring about more workplaces," he said.

The Histadrut is accusing the government of changing the nature of existing pension and provident funds and agreements linked to unemployment benefits. "This is actually the most important money to the workers," said Peretz, who agreed to meet Neeman again on Sunday in a bid to avoid strike action.

"We will activate [the right to strike] when there is an appropriate need," said the Histadrut chairman. "We will try as much as possible to avoid strikes. A strike is not an end, but a means."

The Histadrut is about to enter a battle with the government on the media front, trying to win public support for the workers' cause.

Demanding the government not



Histadrut chairman Amir Peretz (left) meets with Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman yesterday.

(Flash 90)

sell all its assets to the private sector. Peretz urged an even-handed approach to the public sector.

"A state without balances is a state in danger," he concluded. "A state without balances could find its democracy completely wiped out. We will fight this."

Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan yesterday wrote to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu urging him to fight the Histadrut,

"which couldn't care less" about the general suffering of the people, but is only interested in its own political advancement.

Meanwhile, workers at Oil Refineries Ltd. in Haifa and Ashdod are calling for immediate Histadrut action to prevent the company being split in two, in accordance with the cabinet's Wednesday night decision.

Workers' representatives asked Peretz to call a labor dispute

throughout the petroleum sector, including employees at the two cities' ports, Pt Gittot and at Delek and Sonol.

The workers claim dividing the company will adversely affect all 2,000 sector employees. The head of the senior committee of employees in the sector, Reuven Schwartzberg, pointed out that many of the 300 workers in Haifa provide services to the Ashdod operation.

The government decision is the precursor to privatizing the company, at which point all the collective agreements will be abolished and workers will be thrown into the streets, he said, adding: "I've learned this from the experience of the privatization of Shekem and Paz."

Schwartzberg also intends to convene a meeting of Haifa and Ashdod staff to consider what steps can be taken internally.

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Peled: School cuts will be rescinded

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN and film

A defiant Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled said last night that he is certain that in the end, the Education Ministry will get back the money that it needs to open the school year on time (on September 1), including funds needed to expand the long school day program as planned.

Calling the approval of the cuts in the Education Ministry budget "power games" being played by the Finance Ministry, Peled said that "on August 31, like every year, there will be a meeting between the prime minister, the education minister and the finance minister, and the money will be given back to the ministry."

"Although right now only the Finance Ministry officials have emerged winners, in the end, we will all emerge winners," Peled predicted.

However, Peled said that this could not be achieved without a "struggle," adding: "I expect everyone who cares about education and the future of the State of Israel not to lend a hand to cuts in the education budget."

The deputy minister said that letters of dismissal sent to teachers in recent weeks were "illegal," since the teachers legally had to be given more notice, and could not be fired within two weeks of the opening of school.

"The state will have to pay them," he said.

Peled said that if the cuts were not overcome somehow, he did not see how the school year could open on time, "but I'm a born optimist, and believe that in the end, justice will triumph."

Meanwhile, Labor Party leader Ehud Barak said yesterday that the proposed cuts in the Education Ministry's budget would affect every family and every child in the country.

"After-school activities will disappear and enrichment programs will be cancelled, teaching hours will be cut and so will assistance to the weaker elements in society. The cuts will also mean the end of the trend towards reducing the number of children in each class, and the cost of day care will also not be reduced," Barak said.

WEATHER Golan 17-23

Haifa 24-30 Tiberias 22-34

Afula 21-32

Samaria 19-28

Tel Aviv 24-29

Jerusalem 18-27

Beersheba 20-28

Dead Sea 29-38

Eilat 25-35

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear.
Shabbat: No change.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	WIND	COND.	
Amsterdam	17	63	24	75	cloudy
Berlin	19	86	23	91	clear
Buenos Aires	15	81	21	91	clear
Caro	28	72	21	91	clear
Chicago	13	81	24	75	cloudy
Copenhagen	18	81	28	82	clear
Frankfurt	16	84	33	81	clear
Geneva	20	81	24	75	clear
Helsinki	11	52	18	64	clear
Hong Kong	26	88	28	82	clear
Jakarta	23	37	21	73	clear
London	19	89	34	90	clear
Madrid	17	89	19	88	clear
Los Angeles	19	88	28	82	cloudy
Moscow	21	73	28	82	clear
Montreal	13	25	20	68	clear
Moscow	12	12	20	68	cloudy
New York	23	83	20	82	clear
Nice	17	83	28	82	clear
Paris	16	84	31	88	clear
Rome	13	56	29	77	clear
Stockholm	23	73	27	81	clear
Tokyo	23	73	27	81	clear
Toronto	20	29	21	61	clear
Vancouver	19	66	25	77	cloudy
Zurich	19	88	25	77	cloudy

Father of Maccabiah victim demands accountability

By JONATHAN TEPPERMAN

After four weeks of sitting by his 15-year-old daughter Sacha, the last Maccabiah victim in Israeli care, Colin Elterman, was plenty angry yesterday that nobody has taken responsibility for the disaster.

Some three weeks have passed since an official inquiry blamed shoddy engineering and construction for the July 14 accident which killed 4 Australian athletes and

injured 64, and nobody has been charged or dismissed. "Everyone has run for the hills," Elterman said.

Sacha was one of the youngest of the casualties. She was being treated for a respiratory infection of unclear origin at the intensive care unit of Petah Tikva's Schneider Hospital. Officials have said that water samples from the Yarkon River were being tested to determine whether pollutants could have triggered infections suf-

fered by Elterman and other athletes. "We're upset with the way the whole thing has been handled," Elterman said.

"There should be resignations, public statements of support for the victims' families, criminal charges and the creation of a safety committee to ensure that this doesn't happen again. I'd like to see some people charged," he said. "And not only the little guys."

He had kinder words for the Israeli public.

"Unofficially, our treatment here has been fantastic," said Elterman, noting that Dr. Tom Schonfeld has given them a room in the hospital and lets Elterman use his office.

"We also feel good about the reaction of Israelis in general," he added. "We're still getting four or five sympathy calls a day. People bring us food, and children travel from all over the country to see Sacha. There's a feeling of collective embarrassment and shame, and people are doing all they can to make our lives easier."

Burg warns of crisis between Diaspora and Israeli Jews

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg urged the cabinet yesterday to intervene in lagging efforts to come up with a formula for registering Reform and Conservative converts as Jews in

Israel.

Burg said he was concerned by the lack of progress made by a committee appointed months ago to deal with the conversion issue. The committee chaired by Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, is "the last hope for

preventing a tragic, irreversible crisis in relations between Diaspora and Israeli Jewry," Burg said.

"The Temple was destroyed because of baseless hatred, which we recalled this week, and we need overflowing supplies of

brotherly love to overcome narrow-mindedness, and prevent the demise of the Jewish people," he added.

Burg was critical of Monday's disruption of prayers held by Conservative Jews at the Western Wall during Tisha

Be'av.

"The Western Wall was what the Jewish people longed for spiritually, religiously and historically for almost 2,000 years, and today it is liable to turn into the reason for a new division in the Jewish people," he said.

In a separate appeal to Labor Party leader Ehud Barak, Burg lashed out at a bill introduced by MK Avi Yehzekel to ban non-Orthodox Jews from religious councils, labelling it a measure that would discriminate among Jews "in a way that even our enemies haven't done."

Michal Yudelman and Liat Collins also contributed to this report.

Man held for kidnapping, threatening to kill son

A Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court judge remanded Yosef Yefet, 35, of Pardesiya, for three days yesterday, for allegedly kidnapping his six-year-old son from his mother's home in the Sharon area, holding him for three days and threatening to kill the boy and himself.

The judge said at the end of the three days Yefet would be placed under house arrest for another week, and then released on bail of NIS 15,000.

The incident began Monday evening when Yefet, who has been divorced for three years, sent his nephew to his ex-wife's house to collect his son for the

day. They did not return. Instead, the mother was sent a videotape in which Yefet expressed his frustration as his divorce settlement, and listed a dozen demands.

In the tape, Yefet gave a secret code, saying if the code was published in *Yediot Aharonot*, he would know that his demands were being met. If not, he threatened to shoot the boy and commit suicide.

The family informed police, who through intelligence information located Yefet and his son sleeping on a beach near Ein Glev. Yefet was arrested and the boy returned to his mother. (Tum)

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Thursday Sept. 4
ACRE - THE CRUSADER CITY
In July 1099, after they had captured Jerusalem, the Crusaders realized they needed a port with a major harbor. So they turned this small city into an important Crusader stronghold. The markets filled with goods, cloth, jewels and precious stones, for the troops to take home as souvenirs. We'll visit the Hospitaliers Quarter and view the new discoveries, the Genoa Quarter - little Italy in the Holy Land - the Templars Quarter, the Turkish Baths and more.
NIS 150
Tour guide: Danny Syon

Thursday Sept. 11
A DAY ON THE KIBBUTZ
Things have changed since they used to dance the Hora all night long, after a day in the fields. We'll spend the whole day with the kibbutzniks of Ma'agan Michael and Sdot Yam. We'll hear about their history, traditions, successes and failures, the problems and the future. We'll visit the many different sectors of the Kibbutz. Including lunch.
NIS 195
Tour guide: Martin ben Moreh

Wednesday Sept. 17
IN ISRAEL'S GREEN AND PLEASANT LAND
Environmental awareness is pretty low in Israel. This tour, the first of its kind, will take you to Hirtza, Tel Aviv's great garbage mountain, the Shaftan recycling center, the Yarkon River - now being cleaned and rejuvenated - and we'll meet Greenpeace activists. Concerned? A trip not to be missed.
NIS 160
Tour guide: Dany Morgenstern

The tour price includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and return, entrance to all sites, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations. 10% discount when you book all three tours. Pick-up and drop-off along the route when possible and arranged beforehand.

Reservations and further information:
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Every evening from 6:00 - 11:30 p.m. (except Fridays).
Saturday, from the end of Sabbath until midnight.
The Fair will take place in the Mitchell Garden (next to David's tower), the Merrill Hassenfeld Amphitheater in the Sultan's Pool and the Khutsot Hayotzer Arts and Crafts Center.

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More than 150 artists and artisans will exhibit a wide range of arts & crafts.

International Exhibits
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Calendar of Musical Events (no additional charge) Concerts begin every evening at 9 p.m.

Wednesday, 13.8.97 - Bustan Abraham	Tuesday, 19.8.97 - Trio Indio
Thursday, 14.8.97 - Ronit Shachar	Wednesday, 20.8.97 - Yermi Kaplan & the "Flowers"
Saturday, 16.8.97 - Mika Karni	Thursday, 21.8.97 - Ehud Banai
Sunday, 17.8.97 - Avtipus	Saturday, 23.8.97 - Assaf Amdursky
Monday, 18.8.97 - Arcadi Duchin & the "Lemons"	Sunday, 24.8.97 - Ariel Zilber

Tickets: Jerusalem: Klaim-02-6256669; Bimot-02-6240896 Tel Aviv: Kastel-03-6044725, and the Fair ticket counters. Groups: Leibowitz - Berger Marketing, Tel. 02-6799922.
Parking: Jaffa Gate Parking Lot (Mamilla) - Special rate for Fair visitors - NIS 10.00 for entire evening.

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